

42p

# Skool!

MAGAZINE

22nd November, 1986

## Chelsea crisis

Diary of disaster

**Hero  
Hayes**

Arsenal  
didn't  
rate me

**'Killer'  
Kilcline**

They say I'm dirty

**FOREST  
and HIBS**

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Pat Nevin — working  
hard to lift the Chelsea  
blues.

**McMahon  
and McMinn  
PULL-OUT  
POSTER**



**G**UNNERS goal-hero Martin Hayes has shot Arsenal into the Championship-chasing pack, yet admits: "My future might be with another club."

The exciting 20-year-old striker, who needed little more than three full appearances to establish himself as Arsenal's leading scorer this season, knows he could be living on borrowed time at Highbury.

He explains: "I expect the pressure will be on me once Graham Rix regains his fitness."

"I'm taking it one match at a time, and if it doesn't work out here then hopefully I might impress another club."

One suspects the impressed Arsenal fans might have something to say about that. They will argue that Hayes' present run in the side, during which The Gunners have put together a whole succession of victories, is not just a coincidence.

Yet the fact remains that new manager George Graham could have an embarrassment of riches once established stars like Rix, Charlie Nicholas and Stewart Robson recover from injury.

Hayes, an Eastender from Walthamstow and a one-time West Ham fan, is currently wearing Rix's number 11 shirt. But not even a hot streak of six goals in as many matches will ensure his place.

The youngster was convinced his Highbury career was at an end earlier this season when the club accepted a £25,000 offer from Huddersfield.

"I was taken aback, and a little upset. I made 14 first team appearances last season, and I hoped George Graham would give me a chance to impress when he arrived during the summer."

"But things didn't work out like that. David Rocastle was given a place on the right side of midfield — my favourite position — and it suddenly dawned on me that my time was up at Arsenal."

So Hayes travelled to Yorkshire to meet Huddersfield manager Mick Buxton for transfer talks.

"We agreed terms," he reveals, "but I decided the club was too far away from London. I thought I

# HOT-S

## proves

might wait and see if any side a little nearer home showed an interest."

Then, in one of the season's true ironies, his chance to impress Graham arrived, during a Littlewoods Cup-tie ... away to Huddersfield.

Named as one of the two permitted substitutes in the competition, Hayes was thrown on by Graham at Leeds Road, where Arsenal were struggling to hold on to their 2-0 first-leg lead.

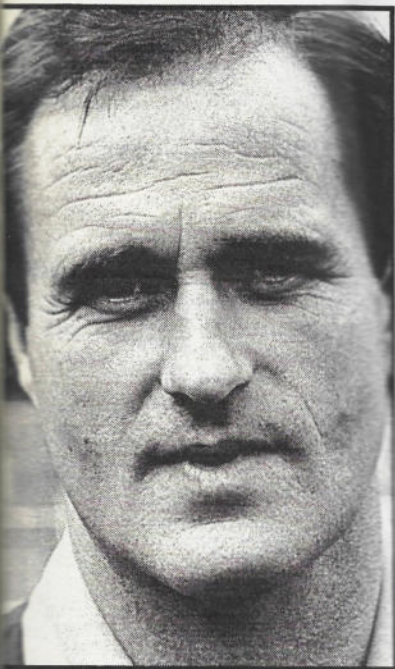
He recalls: "It's something you dream about. I replaced Ian Allinson, scored our equaliser, and created a few chances for others that could have given us victory."

**'Arsenal didn't want me!'**



# HOT HAYES

## Graham wrong



George Graham has kept his pre-season promise to give the Arsenal youngsters a chance.



"Since then the manager has kept faith in me. But when the established players return, well ... who knows?"

"Playing out wide on the left is not my best position, anyway. I'm not a left footer and I prefer playing either down the middle or out on the right."

His performances have, nevertheless, prompted Graham to admit he might have been wrong trying to offload him so quickly.

"Yes, he proved me wrong," says Graham, "and I'm delighted. He has shown he is a natural finisher who always wants the ball and is a good strong runner."

Hayes remains level headed, however. "It is nice to know that the manager does rate me a bit. But perhaps I'll know the full extent of his faith in me when he soon has a full squad to choose from."

### High-flyers

**M**MARTIN HAYES is only one of several promising youngsters who have transformed Arsenal into the Highbury high-flyers this season.

David Rocastle, Tony Adams, Niall Quinn and Paul Davis ... no wonder manager George Graham rates the club's youth policy as the best in England.

"If you look at the top clubs in England and count up the number of players in the side who have progressed through the youth ranks, you wouldn't find as many names as there are here," he says.

"Contrary to popular belief, a youth system is not a way of getting players on the cheap. It costs a lot of money, but it has its advantages.

"The cream of the new talent will more likely opt for a club that has a good record of players progressing to the first team.

"And if you can nurture these players along, and treat them

right, they become far more attached to a club.

"Those you produce aren't normally as mercenary in their attitude as the ones you sign from other clubs, who often want to move on after two or three years."

Hayes agrees, adding: "Youngsters like myself are keen. We'll gladly chase lost causes, whereas more experienced players often don't."

The future is bright at Highbury these days. Graham says Arsenal will do well to finish in the top six. On current form, that should be kids stuff!



The pace of Perry Groves (right) has given a new dimension to the Highbury attack while David Rocastle, Tony Adams and Niall Quinn (all shown below) have played a vital role in establishing Arsenal's Championship challenge.





What's new?

# IRWIN



## Souness lands the big one

Rangers player-manager GRAEME SOUNESS has another trophy to accompany the Skol Cup.

The Ibrox boss was talked into joining Aston Villa chairman DOUG ELLIS on a salmon fishing jaunt and, using a borrowed rod, landed a 14lb beauty.



Nottingham Forest boss BRIAN CLOUGH says that taking his team to away games these days is more like going on a youth club outing!

Says Cloughie: "Gone are the days when we used to enjoy half a beer or a glass of wine before a match. Now I don't ask whether it's bitter or lager, but which flavour ice lolly they want!"

# United fight Stapleton bid

Crystal Palace are set to try again for Leicester striker MARK BRIGHT, who recently turned down a £75,000 move to Selhurst Park.

Manchester United are determined to keep hold of FRANK STAPLETON, who has received an offer of a three-year contract said to be worth £400,000 from Belgian side KV Mechelen.

Stapleton is currently on a weekly contract at Old Trafford, but United are demanding a £300,000 transfer fee, which is too high for the Belgians' liking.

After agreeing to sell TERRY GIBSON for £300,000, United manager RON ATKINSON says: "We want Frank to stay. He has made his best start to a season for three years.

"We have made him a good offer to stay, one which no other club in this country could match. I hope he realises that and signs up again to end all this speculation."



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## Hopkins-CITY HIT BACK

Manchester City have reacted angrily to comments made by ROBERT HOPKINS following his recent transfer to WBA.

Hopkins was swapped with IMRE VARADI after less than three months at Maine Road and said: "I hope City are relegated. They have too many big-headed young kids who think they know it all. Their attitude was diabolical."

Replies City boss JIMMY FRIZZELL: "Maybe Hopkins should have tried to help these youngsters become better professionals. That's what I'd expect from my senior players."

And City chairman PETER SWALES adds: "Considering that Hopkins has hardly had an angelic career, I find his comments quite staggering."





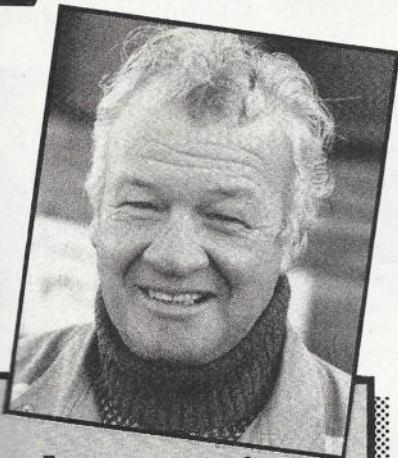
Mark Irwin knows

# AT LARGE

**G**RAHAM TURNER, used to life's luxuries when boss of millionaire club Aston Villa, is finding life a little different at hard-up Wolves.

"I have to count the practice balls at the end of every training session because we can't afford to lose any," reveals Turner.

"What we really need is a bag to keep them all in, but somebody pinched it!"



## Bingham to sign

Northern Ireland boss **BILLY BINGHAM** is set to sign a 12-month extension to his £100,000 a year contract with the Saudi Arabian club Al Nasser.



## Give Nico a chance

**C**HRIS WADDLE is convinced that £600,000 Belgian **NICO CLAESEN** (above, right) is going to be a smash hit at Spurs in spite of his indifferent start at White Hart Lane.

"His first two games were against Liverpool and Sheffield, two of the best defences in the game," says Waddle.

"After that he played on QPR's artificial pitch, a surface he'd never faced in his life.

"Give Nico time and I'm sure he will prove a great asset for Spurs. He is very quick and has proved he can score at international level. Once he's settled in England, there'll be no stopping him."

I see that England Schoolboys are due to meet Northern Ireland at Kenilworth Road on February 27. I wonder if all Northern Ireland's fans will be banned?

**H**ibs have abandoned their plans to bring defender **DOUG ROUGVIE** back to Scotland. The ex-Aberdeen star is still on the transfer list despite making a return to the Chelsea first team in recent weeks. But Chelsea's asking price is beyond Hibs' reach.

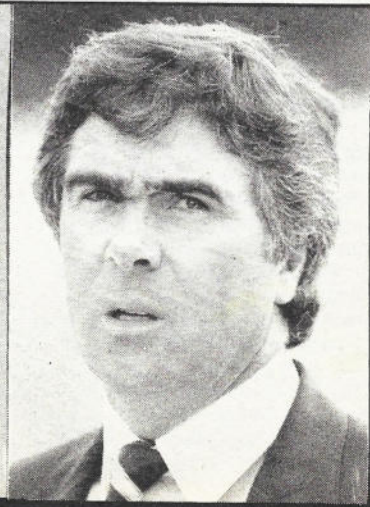
## Brazil's Irish date

**T**he Republic of Ireland have been added to the list of countries Brazil will play on their European tour at the end of the season. Their appearance at Lansdowne Road on May 23 will be their first game in Ireland since 1973.

## Mind your language!

I'm not quite sure how he's going to implement it, but Bristol Rovers boss **BOBBY GOULD** is to fine his players 50p every time they swear during a match.

He'll also pay up £1 for every oath he utters and says: "As manager, it is up to me to set an example and control my language during the game."





# The Editor

## Not a lot of people know that ...

CHESTER have currently gone longer than any Football League club without a win in the F.A. Cup — eight games since they fought their way through to the Fifth Round in 1979-80. However, as they drew the fourth game of that sequence, the post-War record for the longest run of F.A. Cup tie defeats among Football League clubs is still seven — by Leeds United (1955-60) and Derby County (1963-69).



Rangers proved they could live with the best of British when they drew with Spurs in a pre-season friendly.

## Bruce's Boots

FIRST three winners of our Dunlop Bruce's Boots competition are: Andrew Johnston, Berkshire; Simon Roy, Aberdeenshire and Mark Lee, Portsmouth. Bruce Grobbelaar Hotboots are on the way.

The answers were as follows: (Oct 11 issue): 1. Crewe 2. Ray Clemence 3. Zimbabwe. (Oct 18): Mike Hooper. (Oct 25): Four.



## Smoothie Yorath

IT'S well known that many players enjoy playing golf or snooker on their day off. But how does Swansea City's boss Terry Yorath unwind? The former tough-tackling Leeds and Wales defender admits: "I have a hot bath and walk around the house in silk pyjamas."

"It might sound odd but I really find it the ultimate relaxation."

No wonder Swans are turning in "silky" performances this season!

## ANGRY SCOTS!

JIMMY HILL is none too popular in Scotland. He continually criticises the Premier Division and made scathing comments about Terry Butcher lowering his standards to play for Rangers.

Scottish fans would like to remind Jim that the calibre of the Premier Division is good and teams like Celtic, Rangers, Aberdeen and Dundee United would probably do well in the English First Division.

Letters I've received point out that there are still a vast number of quality players on show every

week North of the border.

Stars such as Kenny Dalglish, Steve Archibald, Mo Johnston and Frank McAvennie were good players before they made the move South.

The Scots hate their image of being second-raters, merely existing for English clubs to come along and pluck the best of them.

When our Jim settles into his seat at Hampden on May 23rd for the Sir Stanley Rous game between Scotland and England, he will undoubtedly be reminded of that fact!

## Ed's Teaser

Answer to Ed's Teaser November 1st issue was Jimmy Hill.

Fivers on the way to: D. Kelly, Co. Armagh; Wayne Moses, London N16; Stuart Smith, Selston; Paul McLaughlan, Uxbridge; David Coverdale, Hartlepool.

## Shoot view

Coventry expect a near capacity gate of 23,500 and a cash bonanza of £125,000 when they face favourites Liverpool in the Fourth Round of the Littlewoods Cup on November 17.

The big game is the culmination of a remarkable transformation at Highfield Road under the leadership of managing director and team manager George Curtis.

Tall, broad-shouldered, and as fiercely determined in management as he was as a powerhouse defender for Coventry in the Fifties and Sixties, Curtis has driven success and pride into a Midland club that threatened to sink without trace last season.

## Sky High Blues

After years of fighting against relegation, Coventry are sky high.

They lost only three of their first 16 League and Cup games with a commitment, style and panache that had rarely been seen at Highfield Road in all the lean years.

### Credit

Curtis wraps a friendly arm around his chief coach John Sillett whenever Coventry are praised for their rejuvenation, but it is the big man himself who should receive most of the credit

for the club's transformation.

He has personally conducted the revival of the slumbering giant Cyrille Regis.

He has persuaded club captain Brian Kilcline to admit that he has never enjoyed his football so much as he has this season, and, thanks to Curtis, that enthusiasm is coursing right through the dressing-room and offices at Highfield Road.

The Curtis success story simply goes to prove that a manager does not need a heavenly playing pedigree to make it as a boss.

## Dixon's secret

KERRY DIXON has a message to all youngsters hoping to make the grade as a First Division footballer. He says: "Whenever a young lad asks how he can become a top footballer, my answer is always the same: 'A bit of talent and a Mum and Dad like mine and you won't go far wrong'."

The Chelsea and England striker is quick to thank his parents Anne and former Luton and Coventry forward Mike in his autobiography 'Kerry', published by Queen Anne Press. "Without their help," he adds, "I certainly wouldn't have achieved what I have."

I found it an interesting read, and all the more valuable with the inclusion of a picture of yours truly, presenting Kerry with the SHOOT/adidas Golden Shoe Award in 1984!



# SOUNESS STILL NOT HAPPY!

**G**raeme Souness has no intention of taking things easy just because Rangers have already booked a place in next season's UEFA Cup with their Skol Cup Final victory over Celtic.

The Ibrox player-manager is determined to build on that success and keep improving his team until they are good enough to capture the Scottish Championship.

"We were a little fortunate to beat Celtic, but the main thing is that we won," says Souness.

"But anyone who knows me will tell you that I'm not the sort of bloke to be satisfied with one trophy when there are others up for grabs.

"The Championship is still our priority, but we've a long way to go before we're good enough to win it."

To that end, the former Liverpool and Scotland destroyer is preparing further moves into the transfer market. And it's almost certain that any signings will be border raids from England.

Since taking charge at Ibrox in the summer, Souness has already splashed out more than £1½ million to sign Terry Butcher, Chris Woods, Colin West and

Jimmy Nicholl.

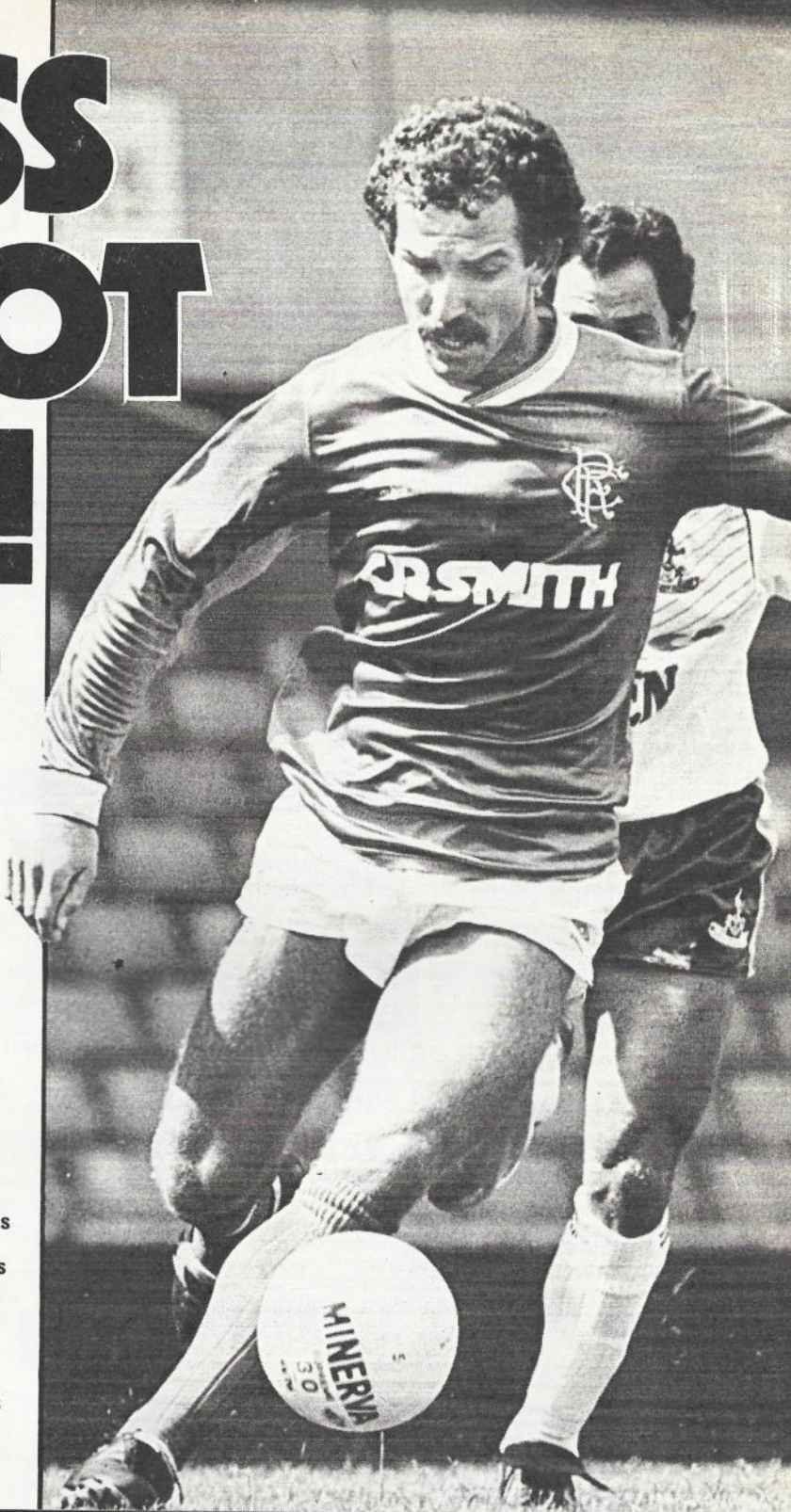
Now he is in the market for a top quality left-back, with West Bromwich Albion's former England international Derek Statham at the top of his list.

If Statham can convince Souness that he has fully recovered from a long run of injuries, he will be Glasgow-bound. If not, Aston Villa's Gary Williams and Sheffield Wednesday's Glyn Snodin will come into consideration.

## Determination

Evidence of Souness' determination to get things right is the fact that just 48 hours after Rangers' Skol Cup victory, he was checking Snodin in Wednesday's Littlewoods Cup clash at Everton.

"When you are a player, you think you know all about the demands that are made on your manager," says Souness. "But it's only when you're actually in that position that it really gets to you. This job involves a lot of stress and pain."



*Rangers' Skol Cup success has not stopped Graeme Souness seeking new players.*



Off the field, too, Souness is putting together a new team.

His former Liverpool and Middlesbrough colleague Phil Boersma has been appointed physio, and no doubt his experience as assistant to John Toshack during the glory years at Swansea will come in handy.

And star-finder Gordon Neely has been lured from Hibs to take up a new job as chief scout.

These are the men who will be trusted with the job of making Rangers the greatest club in Scotland once again. Souness will not relax until that job has been completed.



Monday, November 3  
**DIVISION FOUR**

STOCKPORT (0).....1	HEREFORD (0).....2
Stokes	Kearns 2
	1,338

Tuesday, November 4  
**UEFA CUP**  
2nd Rnd 2nd Leg

BOAVISTA (0).....0	RANGERS (0).....1
	Ferguson 22,000
	(Rangers won 3-1 on agg.)

**LITTLEWOODS CUP**  
3rd Rnd replays

ASTON VILLA (1).....2	DERBY (1).....1
Birch, Thompson	Williams 19,477
SOUTHAMPTON (1).....4	MAN. UTD (0).....1
Lawrence, Wallace	Davenport
Le Tissier 2	17,915

**DIVISION THREE**

BRENTFORD (0).....1	NOTTS CO (0).....0
Carroll	3,057
BRISTOL CITY (0).....0	MANSFIELD (0).....0
	6,407
CARLISLE (0).....2	PORT VALE (0).....0
McGarvey, Halsall	2,748
CHESTERFIELD (1).....3	FULHAM (0).....1
Moss 2, Caldwell	2,249
GILLINGHAM (1).....2	BLACKPOOL (1).....1
Shearer, Weatherley	Walsh 5,951
MIDDLESBROUGH (0).....0	BOLTON (0).....0
	10,096
NEWPORT (1).....1	YORK (1).....1
Vinter	Walwyn 2,079
ROTHERHAM (2).....3	CHESTER (0).....0
Goddard (pen), Haycock, Philliskirk	2,439
SWINDON (0).....1	BRISTOL ROVERS (2).....2
Gilligan	Morgan 2,907
WALSALL (0).....2	BOURNEMOUTH (0).....0
Childs, Cross	5,056
WIGAN (0).....1	DONCASTER (0).....1
Hamilton	Deane 2,388

**DIVISION FOUR**

BURNLEY (2).....2	COLCHESTER (0).....1
Grewcock, Hoskin	Ferguson 1,692
HALIFAX (1).....2	EXETER (0).....0
N. Matthews, Knill	1,390
HARTLEPOOL (1).....1	TORQUAY (0).....1
Dixon, Honour	Pyle 1,763
LINCOLN (1).....2	CREWE (1).....1
Gamble, Lund	1,842
ORIENT (0).....0	NORTHAMPTON (0).....1
	Benjamin 3,469
PRESTON (0).....1	CARDIFF (0).....1
Ford	6,614
SOUTHEAST (1).....3	SCUNTHORPE (1).....1
Cadette 2, McDonough	2,789
SWANSEA (1).....2	CAMBRIDGE (0).....0
Harrison, Pascoe	5,688
WOLVES (0).....0	ROCHDALE (0).....0
	3,949

Wednesday, November 5  
**EUROPEAN CUP**  
2nd Rnd, 2nd Leg

DYNAMO KIEV (1).....3	CELTIC (0).....1
Blukhin, Yakovenko, Yevtushenko	McGhee 100,000
	(Dynamo won 4-2 on agg.)

**CUP-WINNERS' CUP**  
2nd Rnd, 2nd Leg

WREXHAM (0).....2	REAL ZARAGOZA (0).....2
Buxton, Massey	Yanez 2 (a.e.t.) 14,550
	(Agg. 2-2. Real went through on away goals)

**UEFA CUP**  
2nd Rnd, 2nd Leg

UNIV. CRAIOVA (0).....1	DUNDEE UTD (0).....0
Bitu	50,000

**LITTLEWOODS CUP**  
3rd Rnd replay

NOTTM. FOREST (0).....1	C. PALACE (0).....0
Clough	13,029

**DIVISION FOUR**

PETERBOROUGH (1).....2	TRANMERE (0).....1
Gregory, Lawrence	Morrissey 1,812

**SCOTTISH FIRST**

AIRDRIE (0).....0	CLYDE (1).....2
-------------------	-----------------

Friday, November 7

**DIVISION THREE**

DONCASTER (2).....2	GILLINGHAM (0).....0
Russell, Woods	2,691

**DIVISION FOUR**

COLCHESTER (0).....0	ORIENT (0).....0
	3,924

# THE TODAY LEAGUE

Saturday, November 8th

**DIVISION ONE**

ARESENAL (0).....0	WEST HAM (0).....0
	36,084
COVENTRY (0).....1	NOTTM F (0).....0
Pickering 54	16,089
EVERTON (1).....2	CHELSEA (1).....2
Steven 27 (pen), Sheedy 67	Jones 44, Pates 87 29,727
LEICESTER (0).....1	NEWCASTLE (1).....1
Smith 47	McDonald 19 (pen) 9,836
MAN CITY (1).....3	ASTON VILLA (0).....1
Moulden 26, 81, Varadi 56	Daley 67 22,875
NORWICH (0).....2	TOTTENHAM (0).....1
Crook 59, Elliott 76	Claesen 72 22,139
OXFORD (1).....2	MAN UTD (0).....0
Aldridge 16 (pen), Sletcher 80	
Q.P.R. (1).....1	LIVERPOOL (2).....3
Bannister 27	Rush 5, Nichol 15
	Johnston 78 24,045
SHEFF WED (0).....3	SOUTHAMPTON (0).....1
Marwood 66 (pen), Chapman 70, 75	Le Tissier 87 20,802
WATFORD (1).....4	CHARLTON (1).....1
Falco 45, 54, Bardley 70, Blissett 71	Shiple 10 14,466
WIMBLEDON (0).....0	LUTON (0).....1
	M Stein 58 5,928

**DIVISION THREE**

BLACKPOOL (0).....1	ROTHERHAM (0).....0
Methven 65	3,578
BOLTON (0).....0	NEWPORT (0).....1
	Millett 58 4,530
BOURNEMOUTH (0).....2	CARLISLE (0).....1
Newson 85, Richards 86	Bishop 88 4,284
BRISTOL ROV (1).....1	BURY (1).....1
Mayhew 35	Ross 4 2,947
CHESTER (0).....1	BRENTFORD (1).....1
Bennett 89	Cooke 8 2,016
DARLINGTON (0).....0	MIDDLESBROUGH (0).....1
	Stephens 75 9,942
FULHAM (0).....0	BRISTOL CITY (2).....3
	Neville 15, 89 4,453
	Walsh 29 (pen)
MANSFIELD (0).....0	SWINDON (0).....0
	3,908
NOTTS CO (0).....2	WALSALL (1).....1
McParland 47, Clarke 76	Kelly 22 5,266
PORT VALE (0).....0	WIGAN (1).....1
	Houston 26 3,289
YORK (0).....1	CHESTERFIELD (0).....1
Gabbiadini 89	Bellamy 90 (pen) 3,225

Sunday, November 9th  
**DIVISION FOUR**

ALDERSHOT (0).....3	STOCKPORT (0).....1	SCUNTHORPE (2).....2	HALIFAX (1).....1
King, Foyle 2	Allatt 2,660	Johnson, Lister	Kaill 2,059

## FINE FARE LEAGUE

Saturday, November 8th

**SCOTTISH Premier**

ABERDEEN (0).....0	ST MIRREN (0).....0
	10,000
CLYDEBANK (0).....0	HEARTS (0).....3
	Colquhoun 60, 70
DUNDEE UTD (0).....1	DUNDEE (1).....3
	Harvey 5, 84, Shannon 62 11,733
HAMILTON (0).....1	CELTIC (0).....2
Maier 58	McClair 88 10,000
HIBERNIAN (1).....1	FALKIRK (0).....0
McCluskey 28	5,000
RANGERS (0).....0	MOTHERWELL (0).....1
	Ferningham 88 33,966

**SCOTTISH DIV. ONE**

AIRDRIE (1).....3	MONTROSE (0).....0
CLYDE (2).....3	PARTICK (0).....3
DUMBARTON (1).....2	MORTON (0).....1
EAST FIFE (1).....2	DUNFERMLINE (0).....1
FORFAR (0).....0	BRECHIN (0).....1
KILMARNOCK (1).....3	QUEEN OF STH (1).....2

**SCOTTISH DIV. TWO**

ARBROATH (1).....4	QUEENS PK (1).....1
AYR UTD (3).....3	RAITH ROV (1).....3
COWDENBEATH (1).....1	ALLOA (0).....0
ST JOHNSTONE (0).....3	EAST STIRLING (0).....0
STENHSMUIR (0).....0	ALBION R (0).....0
STIRLING ALB (1).....2	BERWICK (0).....2
STRANRAER (0).....2	MEADOWBANK (0).....0

**DIVISION TWO**

BIRMINGHAM (0).....1	OLDHAM (2).....3
Clarke 66 (pen)	Henry 1, Williams 42, Palmer 71 6,082
BLACKBURN (0).....0	SHEFF UTD (1).....2
	Daws 33, 72 5,869
C PALACE (0).....0	GRIMSBY (2).....3
	Walsh 19, Hobson 31, O'Riordan 90 5,052
DERBY (1).....2	IPSWICH (1).....1
Micklewhite 12	Stockwell 29 14,145
DAVISON 90	
HUDDERSFIELD (1).....2	BRIGHTON (1).....1
Shearer 41, Banks 52	Jasper 27 4,463
HULL (0).....0	STOKE (3).....4
	Ford 15, McEwan 36 (og), Skipper 41 (og), Bertschin 62 5,252
MILWALL (1).....1	LEEDS (0).....0
Sheringham 36 (pen)	6,869
PORTSMOUTH (2).....2	BRADFORD (1).....1
Dillon 15, Quinn 32	McCall 35 10,027
READING (0).....0	BARNLEY (0).....0
	5,346
SHREWSBURY (0).....1	PLYMOUTH (1).....1
McNally 62 (pen)	Matthews 43 3,821
SUNDERLAND (0).....0	WEST BROM (1).....3
	Dickinson 8, Williamson 52, Crooks 66 16,162

**DIVISION FOUR**

CAMBRIDGE (1).....3	BURNLEY (0).....1
Smith 23, 85 (pen), Cooper 46	James 46 (pen) 2,572
CARDIFF (0).....0	SOUTHEAST (1).....2
	McDonough 15, Cadette 77 3,025
CREWE (0).....1	WREXHAM (1).....1
Blissett 67 (pen)	Buxton 17 2,877
EXETER (1).....1	PETERBORO (0).....1
Robson 1	Phillips 78 2,701
HEREFORD (0).....0	LINCOLN (0).....0
	2,305
NORTHAMPTON (1).....3	PRESTON (1).....1
Benjamin 32	Taylor 45 6,537
McPherson 65, Hill 86	
ROCHDALE (0).....0	HARTLEPOOL (0).....2
	Honour 84, Dixon 89 1,467
TORQUAY (1).....1	WOLVES (0).....2
Nardiello 16	Edwards 68, Purdie 76 2,810
TRANMERE (0).....1	SWANSEA (0).....1
Thorpe 60	French 78 1,786

Saturday, November 8th

**DIVISION ONE**

	Home						Away						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	14	4	2	1	17	7	4	0	3	16	12	26	
Nottm F	14	5	2	0	17	4	3	0	4	13	12	26	
Arsenal	14	4	3	0	9	2	3	1	3	7	6	25	
Norwich	14	5	1	1	13	9	2	2	3	10	12	25	
Luton	14	4	3	0	8	2	2	2	3	6	7	23	
Coventry	14	5	1	1	9	3	1	4	2	5	7	23	
West Ham	14	4	0	3	13	13	2	5	0	11	9	23	
Everton	14	4	2	1	13	7	2	2	3	9	10	22	
Sheff Wed	14	3	4	0	19	10	2	2	3	9	12	21	
Oxford	14	4	3	0	10	4	1	2	4	4	17	20	
Tottenham	14	2	3	2	7	7	3	1	3	7	7	19	
Wimbledon	14	3	1	3	10	10	3	0	4	6	8	19	
Watford	14	4	1	2	14	7	1	2	4	9	12	18	
Stamptown	14	4	1	2	15	9	1	1	5	12	21	17	
Q.P.R.	14	4	0	3	11	10	1	2	4	3	8	17	
Charlton	14	2	2	3	8	9	3	0	4	8	14	17	
Leicester	14	2	3	2	11	10	2	1	4	6	10	16	
Aston Villa	14	4	0	3	11	11	1	1	5	9	20	16	
Chelsea	14	1	3	3	5	11	2	2	3	11	14	14	
Man Utd	14	3	1	3	12	8	0	3	4	4	10	13	
Man City	14	2	3	2	10	8	0	3	4	3	8	12	
Newcastle	14	2	1	4	7	10	0	3	4	3	13	10	

**DIVISION TWO**

	P	W	F	H	A	W	A	D	A	Pts		
Portsmouth .....	14	6	1	0	12	4	2	4	1	6	4	29
Oldham .....	14	3	4	0	8	3	5	0	2	15	10	28
Leeds .....	14	6	0	1	15	5	1	3	3	4	7	24
Plymouth .....	14	4	2	1	12	8	2	4	1	11	9	24
West Brom .....	14	5	1	1	13	7	2	2	3	7	8	24
Derby .....	14	4	2	1	12	7	3	1	3	6	8	24
Ipswich .....	14	4	2	1	9	3	2	2	2	13	15	22
Sheff Utd .....	14	2	4	1	10	9	3	2	2	8	6	21
Grimsby .....	13	1	3	2	2	3	4	2	1	12	9	20
Sunderland .....	14	3	3	1	7	5	2	2	3	12	15	20
C Palace .....	14	3	0	4	8	12	3	0	4	9	14	18
Millwall .....	14	4	1	2	12	6	1	1	5	5	10	17
Brighton .....	14	4	2	1	8	3	0	3	4	6	12	17
Hull .....	14	3	0	4	7	14	2	2	3	6	8	17
Reading .....	14	2	2	3	12	9	2	2	3	11	12	16
Bradford .....	13	2	2	3	12	12	2	1	3	5	7	15
Huddersfield .....	14	4	1	2	13	12	0	2	5	1	9	15
Birmingham .....	14	2	4	1	12	10	1	1	5	7	13	14
Stoke .....	14	3	2	2	7	6	1	0	6	5	10	14
Shrewsbury .....	14	3	1	3	7	5	1	1	5	6	14	14
Barnsley .....	14	1	3	3	8	10	1	3	3	3	6	12
Blackburn .....	12	2	0	4	9	9	1	2	3	4	9	11

**DIVISION THREE**

		Home					Away					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbro	16	5	2	1	16	7	4	3	1	13	7	32
Gillingham	15	6	2	0	12	2	3	2	2	7	7	31
Bournemouth	15	7	0	0	16	6	2	3	3	7	11	30
Blackpool	15	5	2	1	14	5	3	3	2	10	10	28
Notts Co	16	6	1	1	19	6	2	3	3	9	11	28
Swindon	15	4	1	3	15	14	3	3	3	10	7	25
Doncaster	16	6	2	0	14	4	1	1	6	10	16	24
Bristol City	14	3	4	0	13	6	3	1	3	10	5	23
Mansfield	14	3	3	0	6	3	2	5	1	10	8	23
Wigan	16	5	1	2	17	10	2	0	6	10	19	22
York	16	5	2	1	12	7	1	2	5	9	9	22
Chesterfield	16	5	0	3	18	18	1	3	4	7	13	21
Bristol Rov	15	2	4	1	8	7	3	1	4	11	13	20
Carlisle	16	4	2	2	10	8	1	2	5	6	12	19
Brentford	15	4	1	3	13	11	1	2	4	6	12	18
Newport	14	1	5	1	11	11	3	0	4	12	13	17
Fulham	16	2	2	4	11	16	2	3	3	9	12	17
Bolton	16	3	2	3	12	10	1	2	5	9	14	16
Walsall	15	3	2	2	16	13	1	2	5	10	18	16
Bury	15	2	3	2	10	10	1	2	5	8	14	14
Port Vale	16	1	2	5	12	14	2	3	3	10	13	14
Chester	16	1	6	1	8	10	0	5	3	6	12	14
Darlington	14	3	2	3	7	10	0	2	4	8	14	13
Rotherham	16	2	2	4	7	10	1	1	6	6	17	12



**T**he Littlewoods Challenge Cup will hit the big time next week when the First Division giants slug it out for a place in the last eight.

Public reaction to the latest version of the League Cup has been less than enthusiastic so far, but all that is about to change.

The record attendance for a Littlewoods Cup tie is just 24,638, for the Everton v Sheffield Wednesday match, but rejuvenated Arsenal are sure to pull in more than that for their attractive clash with London rivals Charlton.

Gunners boss George Graham is doing his best to play down his team's chances, saying: "Even average teams can win at Wembley, and we are not much above average at the moment."

## Revival

But that won't fool Charlton's shrewd boss Lennie Lawrence, who knows that his team's recent revival will face the sternest of tests at Highbury, especially as The Gunners have already won 2-0 at Selhurst Park this season.

Anyone who saw West Ham's thrilling 3-2 Third Round win at Watford will know that The Hammers are also looking a good bet for Littlewoods Cup glory.

Milk Cup holders Oxford are their Fourth Round opponents, and having already drawn 0-0 in the League at the Manor Ground this season, West Ham must fancy their chances at Upton Park.

But if it's Cup romance you want, look no further than the Abbey Stadium, where Fourth Division Cambridge United will cram a capacity 10,500 crowd into

## Cambridge v Spurs

# Oh what a lovely draw

their tiny ground for the visit of Spurs.

"It's a lovely draw," says Cambridge boss Chris Turner. "Our fans have waited a long time for a game like this and we are going to make a lot of money. It would be wonderful if we could even force a replay."

But following victories over Wimbledon and Ipswich, Cambridge will not be under-estimated by in-form Spurs. Turner continues: "David Pleat signed me for Luton in 1978 and he is the best manager I have played for. I know we can expect Spurs to be well prepared."

Yet while the London clubs dream of Wembley glory, they are all aware of the giant shadow being cast over the competition by Merseyside's mighty duo.

Liverpool and Everton have

already run in 30 Littlewoods Cup goals between them, with Paul Wilkinson and Steve McMahon having bagged seven apiece.

Now Kenny Dalglish's team face a tricky Fourth Round tie away to Coventry while Everton are away to a Norwich team who have been enjoying their stay at the top of the First Division.

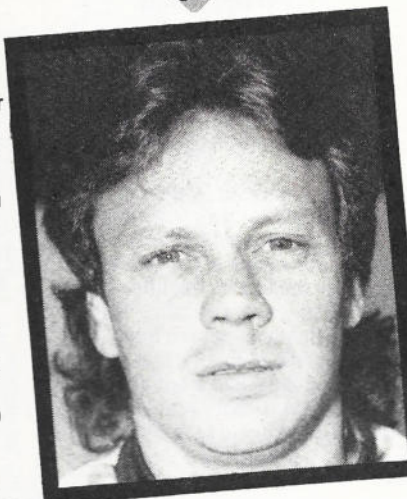
Norwich boss Ken Brown smiles: "It will be difficult, of

course, but I don't think Everton will relish coming here. Our supporters can look forward to a feast of football."

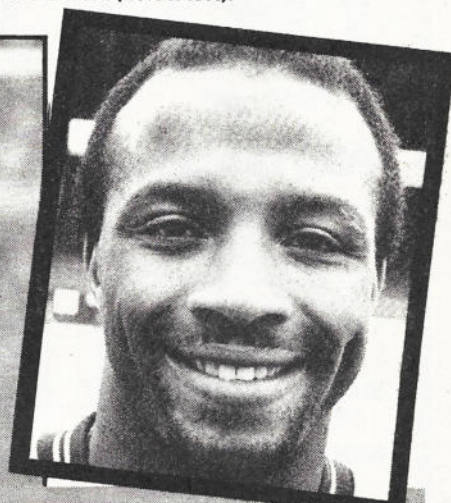
£900,000 centre-half Dave Watson will be particularly keen to return to Carrow Road, but he has been out with a hamstring injury of late and may not be able to force his way straight back into the Everton team.

Liverpool have also had a few problems with injured defenders, but hope to be at full strength for their visit to Highfield Road.

A couple of years ago a Liverpool v Coventry tie would have been regarded as a mere formality. But George Curtis and John Sillett have added extra steel to The Sky Blues these days and it certainly won't be easy for Kenny Dalglish's team.



Cambridge's experienced midfielder Steve Spriggs (above) will relish the challenge of facing Spurs. Coventry's Cyrille Regis (below, right) will pose the biggest threat to Liverpool's progress, while West Ham must be favourites to beat holders Oxford (below left).



## LITTLEWOODS CUP FOURTH ROUND DRAW

Arsenal v Charlton  
Bradford v Nottm. Forest  
Southampton v Aston Villa  
Norwich v Everton  
Cambridge v Tottenham  
West Ham v Oxford  
Coventry v Liverpool  
Shrewsbury v Cardiff





# Hero Sivebaek wins struggle

It is no coincidence that Manchester United's other dashing Dane, John Sivebaek, is now stealing the limelight at Old Trafford.

For the 23-year-old Danish international is finally living up to his promise as potentially the best right-back in Europe.

While team-mate Jesper Olsen battles for his pride at United, Sivebaek is playing with the strength and flair which tempted Ron Atkinson to fork out almost £300,000 for him last season.

## Bewildered

But the picture hasn't always been so cheerful and not too long ago a bewildered and dejected Sivebaek sat in Atkinson's office and demanded: "Do I have a future here?"

The answer to that must surely have been a decisive YES after the youngster's display in the recent televised Manchester derby.

His sheer pace and ability to run from deep in his own half into enemy territory has given Atkinson's men even more potency in attack while at the same time making a mockery of his much publicised medical problems.

## Alarming

United's specialist held up Sivebaek's transfer for six weeks last winter while they probed a worrying pelvic injury and an even more alarming irregularity of the heart.

Says Sivebaek: "It was a terrible time for me, especially as I faced the prospect of missing out on a move to one of the greatest clubs in the world. But after undergoing every possible test, United finally accepted from my own private specialist that I was okay and the move went ahead."

There were more problems as he fought to come to terms with

the speed and differing tactical demands of British football.

Explains the Dane: "On the Continent I was used to playing with a sweeper behind me in a man to man marking system so initially it was a struggle to adapt."

Sivebaek's natural attacking adventure was stifled as he hung



back in United's defence but now he's found the confidence to plough forward and stamp his authority on the game.

The recent departure of John Gidman is directly attributed to the emergence of the Dane, with England international Mike Duxbury also being forced to take a back seat.

Atkinson is naturally delighted, saying: "John is a strong player who tackles forcefully and attacks at every opportunity. He's beginning to show the form that we knew he was capable of and I believe the best of him is yet to come."



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# SCORE A SOCCER CENTURY

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STEVE  
PEARCE

Answer the questions and award yourself the points allocated for each correct reply. Can you hit the ton?

## SCORE CHART

0-50 Poor.  
51-75 Fair.  
76-85 Good.  
86-100 Very sharp.

**1** Liverpool's Steve McMahon scored a hat-trick for Liverpool against which team in the Littlewoods Cup Third Round? (2)

**2** Who are the skippers of the following clubs? (a) Arsenal, (b) Newcastle, (c) Nottingham Forest. (2pts for each).

**3** Did Mick McCarthy (right) score Manchester City's equaliser in the 1-1 draw with neighbours United with his head or with a shot? (1)

**4** Did John Aldridge (below left) join Oxford from Newport, Bournemouth, Reading or Bristol Rovers? (5)

**5** Who did Celtic meet in the European Cup Second Round and what was the score in the first-leg at Parkhead? (5)

**6** Luton's Mike Newell scored a hat-trick in their 4-1 victory over Liverpool. Who was the last player to achieve the same feat against The Reds in a League match? (5)

**7** Two Nicky Platnauer goals sent which Fourth Division side through against Chelsea in their Littlewoods Cup Third Round tie? (3)

**8** Can you name the French midfielder who scored the decisive penalty in their World Cup Finals victory over Brazil last summer? (4)

**9** Identify the clubs of the following players. (a) David Campbell, (b) Paul Redmond, (c) Tony Daley, (d) John O'Neill, (e) Ian Redford. (2pts for each).

**10** Charlton striker Jim Melrose (below) scored after nine seconds in his club's 3-1 victory at West Ham. True or false? (1)

**11** At which clubs will you find the following: (a) Stretford End, (b) The Shed, (c) The Clock End? (3pts each)

**12** The surname of Stewart at Arsenal and Bryan at Manchester United. (2)

**13** The Christian name of the Hearts manager and an Aberdeen international defender. (4)

**14** He made his England debut in 1984 against Wales and has just returned, after a long absence through injury, to First Division action. Who is he? (5)

**15** Tottenham striker Nico Claesen is an international for which country? (2)

**16** If Ralph Milne fired a penalty past goalkeeper Henry Smith at Tynecastle, which two Scottish Premier teams would be involved? (6)

**17** Can you name the winners of the following Cup Finals: (a) 1978 F.A. Cup, (b) 1976 F.A. Cup, (c) 1985 Milk Cup, (d) 1986 European Cup-Winners' Cup, (e) 1986 UEFA Cup? (3pts for each).

**18** Arsenal's exciting young striker Perry Groves joined the club from an Essex-based Fourth Division club. Who are they? (7)

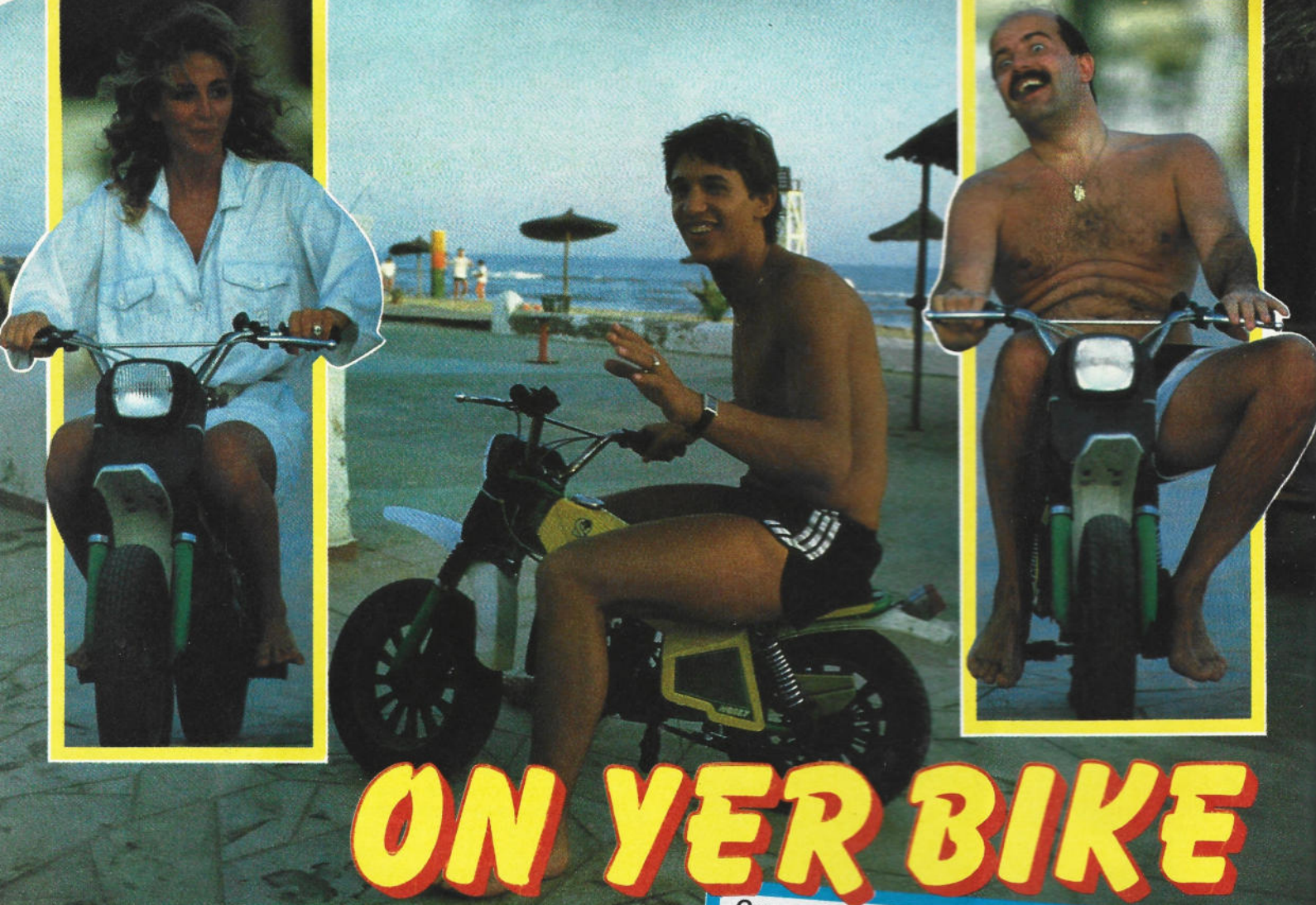
**19** Name the managers of these clubs: (a) Coventry, (b) Sunderland, (c) Ipswich. (2pts each)

**20** Everton's Paul Wilkinson is an England Under-21 international. True or false? (2)

ANSWERS ON  
PAGE 38







# ON YER BIKE

Gary and Michelle Lineker have discovered the ideal way to get around the beaches of sunny Spain. When he's not banging in the goals for Barcelona and England, there's nothing Gary likes better than whizzing around the shores on his specially adapted mini motorbike. And when guests pop over for a few days' holiday, Gary and Michelle are well prepared. So is Gary's snooker playing pal Willie Thorne, who even carries his own spare tyre! Our picture below shows Mark Hughes and other friends joining in the fun in the sun.

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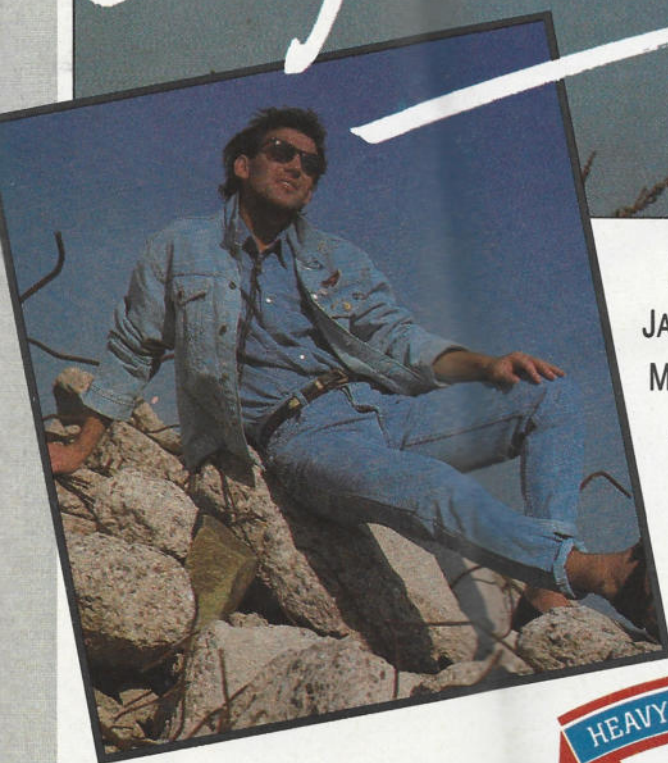
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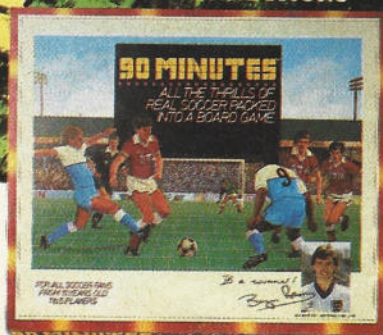


# NEVER TOO OLD

Two old rivals who are using their experience gained over years at the top to take their sides to glory. Bobby Robson aims to take England to the 1988 European Championship Finals while Michel Hidalgo has come out of retirement, after leading France to that trophy in 1984, to steer Marseille to a challenging place in the French title race. But both still enjoy a kickabout to relieve the tensions and bring back the memories.

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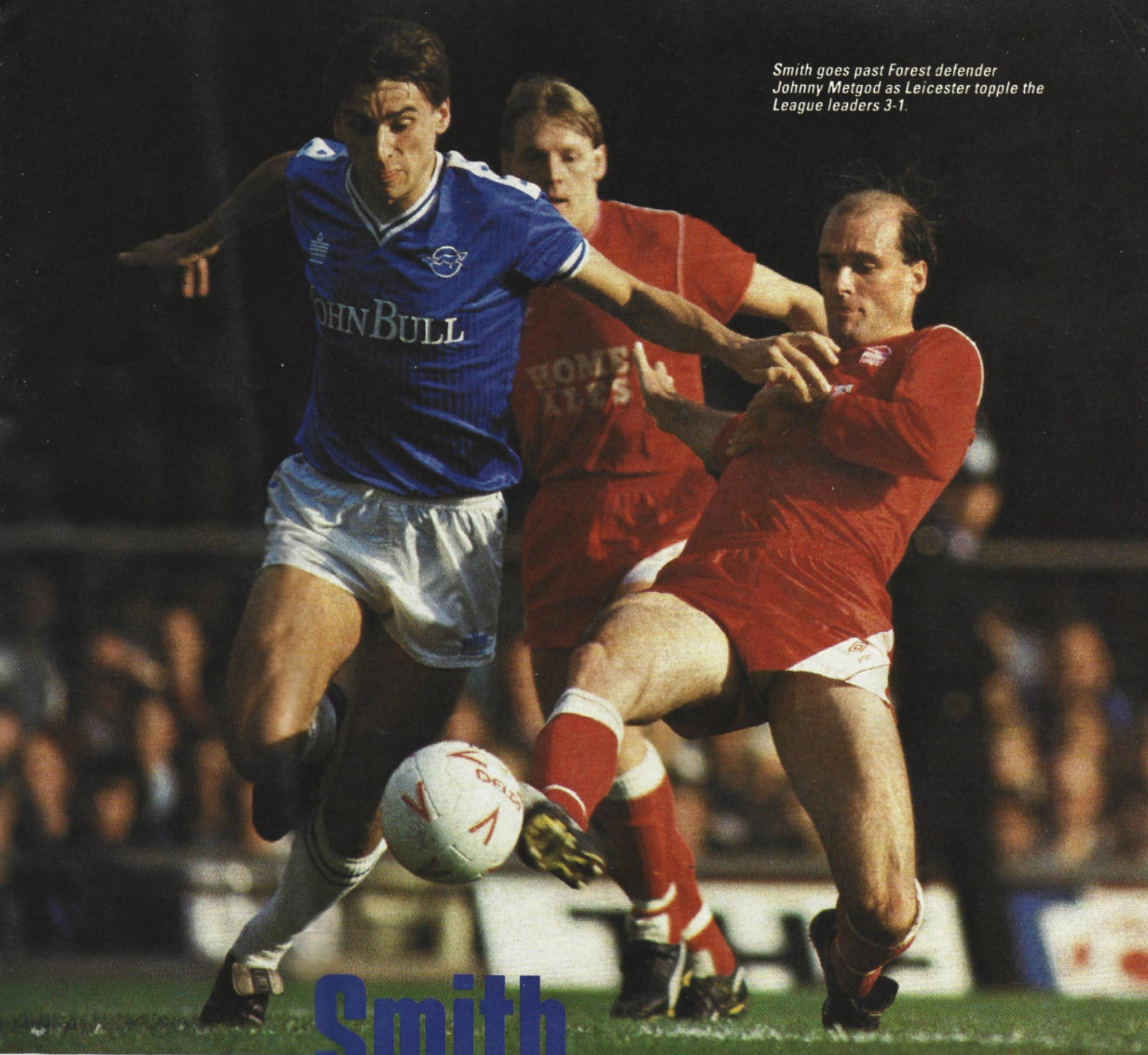


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Smith goes past Forest defender Johnny Metgod as Leicester topple the League leaders 3-1.



# Smith kicks Gary's ghost

**L**eicester City's £1 million rated striker Alan Smith has broken free of the 'Gary Lineker' ghost that lurks in his shadow.

Whereas Manchester United's Peter Davenport has struggled to emulate the feats of departed Old Trafford favourite Mark Hughes, Smith has confidently taken on the goalscoring responsibilities abandoned by Filbert Street favourite Lineker two seasons ago.

A seven goal burst in 12 matches lends weight to the growing belief that 23-year-old Smith is now one of the First Division's most dangerous marksmen and an obvious target for one of the big clubs.

He looks certain to improve upon his 19-goal spree last season, form which has drawn interest from scouts representing Arsenal, Spurs, Manchester

United and Liverpool.

But none of this talk puts the amiable Smith off his stride. He refuses to take anything for granted.

"I don't even think about the Liverpools and Manchester

Uniteds of this world coming in for me," says Smith. "I just get on with my game and if it happens it happens."

"I have one year left of my contract with City and I don't think any further than that."

"I can't see myself becoming as good a player as Gary Lineker — nothing like in fact."

"Good luck to Gary, but success stories like his come only once in a lifetime. What Gary has done is a one-off."

"People have started to

compare me with him but my goal record is nothing like as good. In his last season at Leicester, he got 29 goals and I managed only 15.

"I don't put myself in the category of just being able to score goals. I like to think there are other aspects to my game."

"I don't get paranoid if I'm not scoring. If I am contributing in other ways, it isn't so vital to score in every game."

"I'd like to improve all round aspects of my game like awareness around the box, heading, shooting and control rather than talk about a hypothetical transfer. I won't decide what I'll do next summer until the time comes."

It's hardly surprising that City's new boss Bryan Hamilton is determined to keep Smith.

Says Hamilton: "Speculation about Alan will keep on arising, but he is vital to our hopes and we don't want to sell him."





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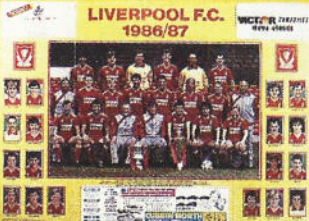
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# 'Gough's great help' Mitch



**T**HE BITTER war of words surrounding the July transfer of Mitchell Thomas from Luton to Spurs still angers the talented defender.

The Luton chairman, David Evans, was furious when Thomas joined David Pleat at White Hart Lane for a bargain tribunal fee of £250,000. So were many Kenilworth Road fans — but Thomas is now hitting back.

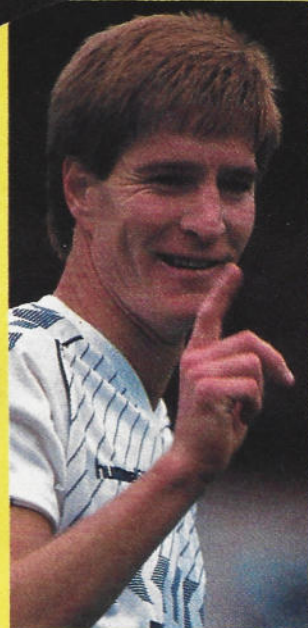
"I am very disappointed by the reaction," he admits. "I thought they would understand that I would want to further my career and I hoped they would be grateful for what I'd done for Luton. I think they should have cheered me on my way.

"Instead, it became quite nasty. I came in for a lot of stick when the Luton fans came to White Hart Lane for our match in October.

"The reaction of the chairman also upset me. He knew that I was a good player and he obviously didn't want to lose me, but he shouldn't have got so bitter."

Thomas is now hoping to put that row behind him. He's got other things on his mind now. Bringing success to Spurs and becoming an England regular are his number one aims.

He says: "I came here because



the club is always in the limelight and, to further my international career, I had to move on.

"There are good quality players around me — more than at Luton — and they are giving me a lot of help."

He's already slotted well into the new-look Tottenham defence. His height, speed and skill make him a formidable opponent but Thomas still believes he can get better. The calming influence of Richard Gough is already helping to improve his game.

"I like to be involved in the action all the time, but sometimes Richard puts me right and says I must concentrate more on my job as a defender before getting involved in attacking. That's been

**'Richard says I must defend'**

important in improving the way I play," he says.

Now, at the age of 22, he seems set to become a regular member of the England squad. "If I continue to make progress, there's no reason why things shouldn't continue to go well for me.

"I'm also confident that David Pleat is going to help Spurs achieve a lot of success. I think we've got the basis of a good side now. It's moulding together and, if we keep fighting for each other and the team spirit remains good, we can do well this season.

## 'Challenge'

"Our away form is good and, although we are dropping too many points at home, I do think we are realistic challengers for the League Championship."

And he has a message of consolation for those Luton fans he left behind.

"The team hasn't changed very much and they are playing the same way as last season so I think they'll do well. I certainly wish them all the best."









**BACK ROW** (left to right): Chris Fairclough, Stuart Pearce, Steve Sutton, Hans Segers, Gary Mills, Brett Williams.

**MIDDLE ROW:** Ron Fenton (coach), David Campbell, Brian Rice, Ian Butterworth, Johnny Metgod, Neil Webb, Brian Clough (manager).

**FRONT ROW:** Nigel Clough, Des Walker, Gary Fleming, Ian Bowyer, Franz Carr, Garry Birtles.



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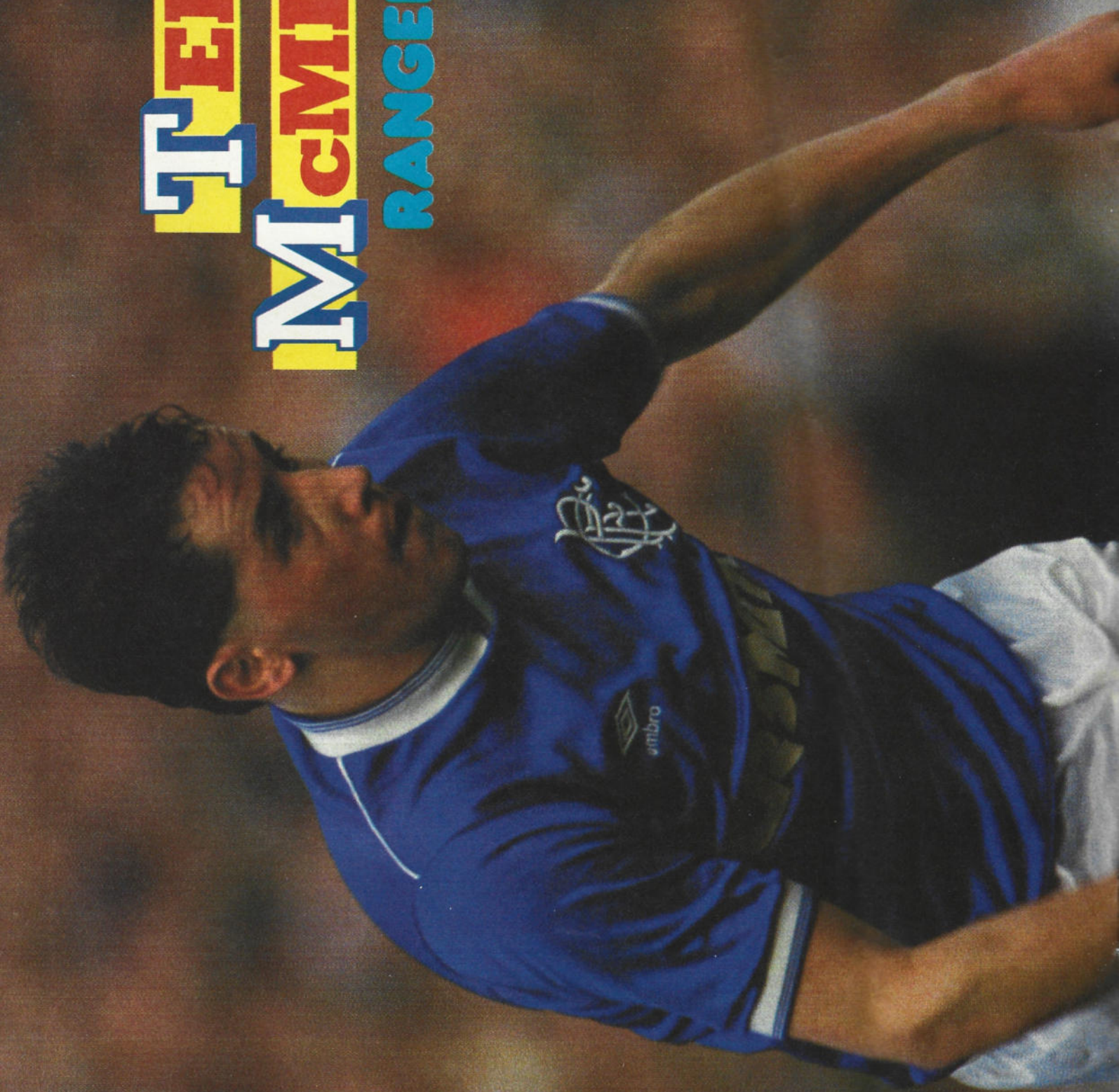
**RECORD TRANSFER FEE PAID:** £1,250,000 to Coventry for Ian Wallace.

**LAST SEASON'S LEADING LEAGUE SCORER:** Nigel Clough (15).

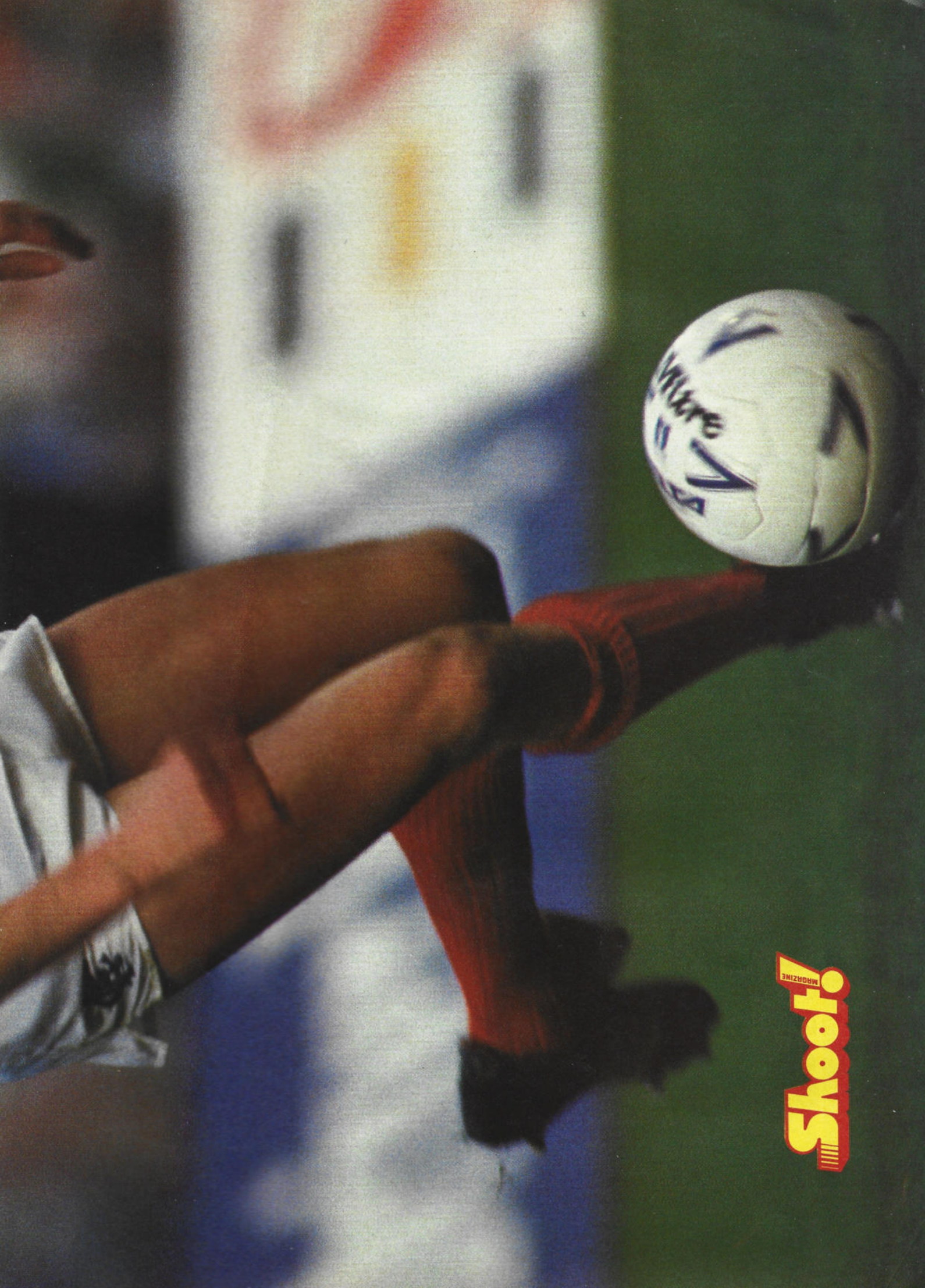
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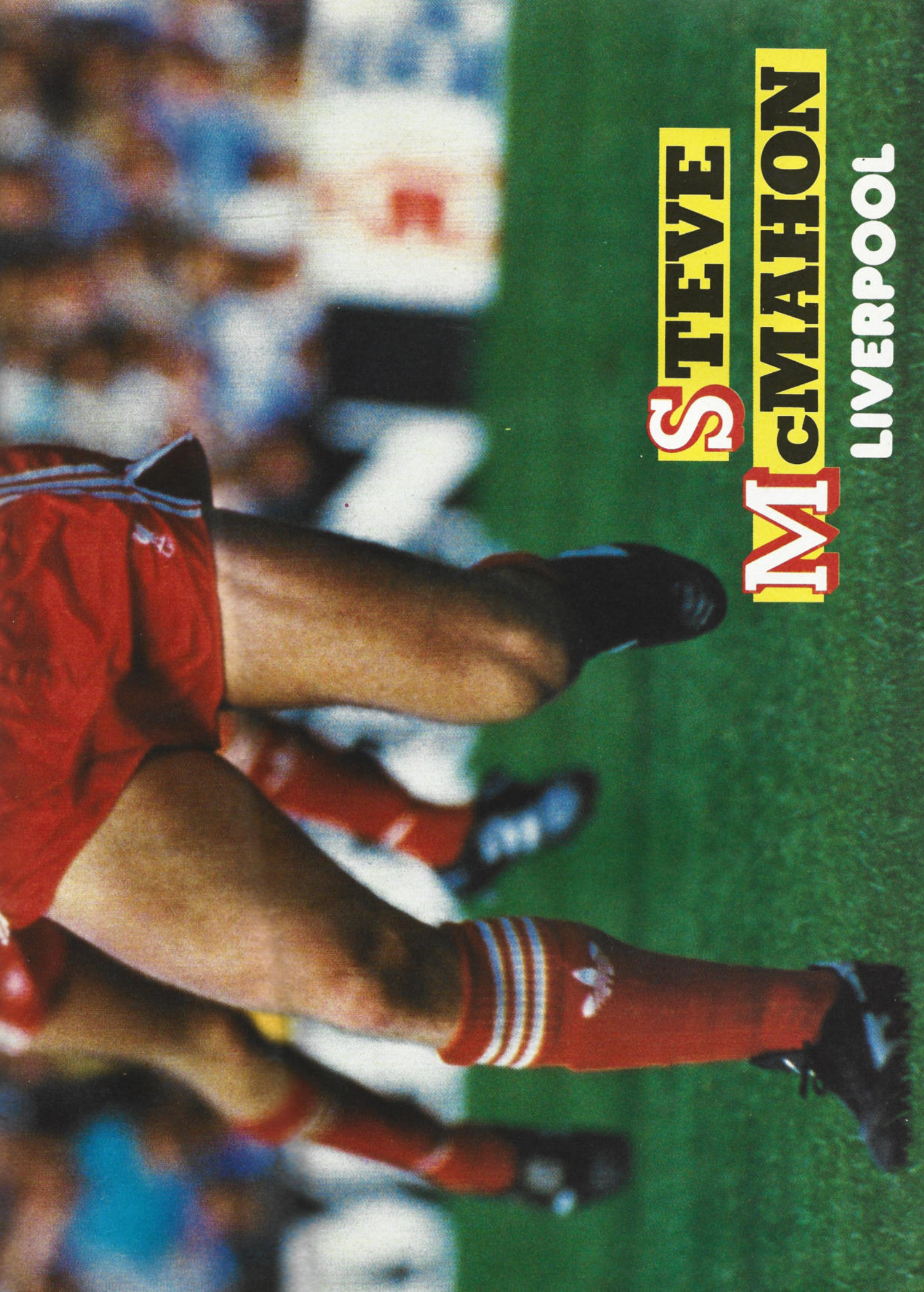
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# Gentle Frightener

**B**RIAN KILCLINE, skipper of this season's surprise packet Coventry, is not worried about his nickname "Killer". "It is far better than some of the names I have been called during my career," laughs the 6ft 4in giant, whose very presence has been known to frighten off some attackers. The central defensive destroyer is also quick to point out that the nickname was not collected because of his muscular style. "Because of my height and size I was dubbed Killer as a boy, and it has always stuck. It does not worry me one bit. It rhymes quite well with my surname."

The Coventry defender, who scales almost 15 stone, is also convinced that his size has made him a target for referees, although he admits that now he is less inclined to dive into a tackle.

Kilcline won two England Under-21 caps in his days at Notts County before joining Coventry in 1984 for £60,000.

Big Brian repaid manager Bobby Gould's faith in him by scoring the matchwinner against Luton when Coventry won their final three games of the 1984-85 season to preserve their First Division place.

This season, however, there is a smile on the faces of The Sky Blues as they maintain a position in the top half of the table.

"There is a tremendous atmosphere about the place, and a great camaraderie among the players. I could not be skipping a better bunch of players," says Kilcline.

"I am convinced there have been times in my career when I have played as well as I have been doing this season. But never before have I enjoyed playing as much as I do now."



'Killer' Kilcline prepares to challenge Wimbledon striker John Fashanu as Coventry continue their good form with a 1-0 victory.



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# 1986

**JAN 26:** Striker Kerry Dixon sustains a torn stomach muscle after only six minutes of Chelsea's F.A. Cup Fourth Round tie with Liverpool at Stamford Bridge and they are beaten 2-1. Chelsea were lying near the top of the table and looking for good runs in the Cup competitions.

**JAN 29:** Chelsea are knocked out of the Milk Cup at the Quarter-Final stage by neighbours Queens Park Rangers.

**FEB 8:** Chelsea have a chance to go top of the First Division for the first time since 1966, but they are thrashed 4-1 at home by Oxford.

**MAR 19:** Goalkeeper Eddie Niedzwiecki sustains a bad knee injury against Queens Park Rangers and is out for the rest of season...at least.

**MAR 29:** An Easter they will want to forget. They lose 4-0 at home to West Ham and two days later are humiliated 6-0 by Queens Park Rangers at Loftus Road. The defeats virtually kill off Chelsea's title aspirations.

**APR 8:** Chelsea players in a pay row. They are angry over the way the profits from their Full Members' Cup success have been distributed.

**MAY 4:** The club's landlords, Marler Estates, gain backing from the local authority to start building a multi-million pound complex at Stamford Bridge and must start their work by 1990.

**MAY 5:** Chelsea are beaten 5-1 by Watford at the Bridge and finish sixth in the table after winning only one of their last seven matches. Kerry Dixon scored only two goals in the last 18 games.

**AUG 21:** Kerry Dixon is fined £2,000 for his revelations, taken from his book "Kerry", in The Sun newspaper. Manager John Hollins is angered by some of Dixon's criticisms of him and the other players at the club.

**SEP 23:** Chelsea are beaten 1-0 in the first-leg of their Littlewoods Cup encounter with Third Division York City.

**OCT 4:** The players are booed off, once again, after a dismal 1-0 home defeat by Charlton.

**OCT 6:** Central defender Joe McLaughlin demands a transfer. He says: "I made the wrong choice when I signed for this club." Dixon is dropped from the England squad to face Northern Ireland. Hollins

# CHELSEA

**SEP 2:** Chelsea are booed off the pitch after a second successive goalless draw at home to Coventry.

**SEP 9:** Hollins holds an emergency meeting with his players to find out why they have made such a bad start to the season.

**SEP 20:** They suffer a 6-2 embarrassment at the hands of Nottingham Forest at Stamford Bridge.



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insists that McLaughlin is not for sale, yet he is still dropped from the side.

**OCT 8:** Dave Speedie and Nigel Spackman are dropped for the second-leg of the Littlewoods Cup encounter with York City.

*Another disaster day in these troubled times for Chelsea as Neil Webb scores Forest's final goal in their 6-2 win at Stamford Bridge (below). David Speedie (right) is one of three players in dispute with the club.*

**OCT 10:** McLaughlin, Speedie and Spackman have private talks with Hollins to discuss their futures. Speedie says: "I want to leave."

**OCT 28:** Chelsea are bundled out of the Littlewoods Cup 2-1 by Fourth Division Cardiff City. The supporters call for Hollins' resignation.



"I would take a rare kind of genius to cock things up here. Even my missus could run the team now."

Those words must haunt Chelsea's beleaguered manager John Hollins as he wrestles with the biggest crisis of his success-ridden life.

They were uttered by John Neal on his last day in charge of Chelsea back in July, 1985.

Chelsea were riding the crest of a wave when the old warhorse Neal handed over to Hollins.

The former Wrexham and Middlesbrough boss had quietly and efficiently steered Chelsea out of the mire after the doom laden late Seventies.

His greatest achievement had been to see the club win the Second Division Championship in 1984 and return to their rightful First Division berth.

### Criticised

Now, 16 months after Neal cleared his desk for the last time, Hollins is being criticised for 'cocking things up'.

The former Chelsea, QPR and Arsenal star, who was introduced to management as Neal's assistant in charge of coaching, is wearing the haunted expression of a man fearing for his future.

Hollins has faced a welter of criticism for Chelsea's poor showing this season and the dressing-room unrest that has led to dozens of provocative headlines.

Now Neal's former assistant, Ian McNeill, says: "I despise John



Hollins for what has happened at Chelsea and I despise him as a person."

Several votes of confidence in Hollins from chairman Ken Bates have done nothing to relieve the tension gripping players and personnel at Stamford Bridge.

# COCK-UP

## Now Hollins is under fire

Meanwhile, Neal, who was recently dismissed from his consultancy job at the Bridge, is living quietly in Buckinghamshire after suffering a heart attack in his Chelsea days. He shows little compassion for his former comrades.

"I find it hard to have too much sympathy for either John Hollins or Ken Bates," he says.

"I left them with an ideal set-up and I don't know how they have managed to let it go wrong."

A few weeks after that Second

Division success, Neal was fighting for his life on an operating table. He recovered and was asked to enjoy a quieter life as a director.

"I felt useless," confesses Neal. "It always seemed inevitable that John Hollins would get my job because he had been given a lot of credit for the team's success anyway."

Hollins has never fitted snugly into management, yet did well to lead Chelsea into sixth position in his first season.

The first three months of the new season have been an unmitigated disaster. None of his expensive signings, Gordon Durie, Steve Wicks, Mike Hazard and Roy Wergele, have made the impact he would have liked.

Scottish striker David Speedie is on the transfer list, and Joe McLaughlin and David Spackman have said they want to leave.

Hollins mirrors his despair after Chelsea's exit from the Littlewoods Cup at Cardiff by saying: "My job has been in doubt ever since I took over."



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**RECORD TRANSFER FEE RECEIVED:** £350,000 from Chelsea for Gordon Durie.

**RECORD TRANSFER FEE PAID:** £120,000 to Everton for Joe Harper.

**LAST SEASON'S LEADING LEAGUE SCORER:** Steve Cowan (19).

**BACK ROW (left to right):** Calumn Milne, Gordon Chisholm, Mark Fulton, Alan Rough, Gordon Rae, George McCluskey, Eddie May.

**MIDDLE ROW:** John Collins, Willie Irvine, Gordon Hunter, Alan Sneddon, Mark Caughey, Paul Kane, Joe Tortolano.

**FRONT ROW:** Billy Kirkwood, Stuart Beedie, Steve Cowan, Ian Munro, Joe McBride, Mike Weir.





# WORLD WIDE SPECIAL



# DIEGO

Compiled by **TONY ROCHE**

**R**eal Madrid are poised to make a sensational £6 million bid for Diego Maradona.

The Spanish Champions have been offered £5 million for their 23-year-old World Cup striker Emilio Butragueno.

Italian giants Inter Milan, under the new management of Giovanni Trapattoni, want Butragueno to strengthen a front line that already boasts Alessandro Altobelli and Karl-Heinz Rummenigge.

And Real have decided that if they cannot hang on to Butragueno they'll add £1 million to Inter's cash and rock world football by trying to persuade the little Argentine genius back to Spain.

Maradona, the idol of Naples, knows in his heart that he is unlikely to match his World Cup achievements at club level with the Italian club. Real, who also hold the UEFA Cup for the second successive season, promise the club honours that have

so far eluded him.

It's all down to contracts and hard cash. Naples won't want to lose Maradona, no matter what the offer because he fills their stadium for every home game.

But Maradona still rages against his former club Barcelona

and recently lashed out at Gary Lineker because he thought the England striker, currently the idol of Barcelona, had attacked him in print.

The prospect of returning to Spain for fabulous money, a lifestyle every bit as good as the

one he enjoys now and the opportunity of playing for Barcelona's greatest rivals appeals to Argentina's captain.

Plus, of course, his international team-mate and pal Jorge Valdano plays for Real, along with Mexico's Hugo Sanchez. And I'm told it's Valdano who is acting as intermediary between Real and Maradona.

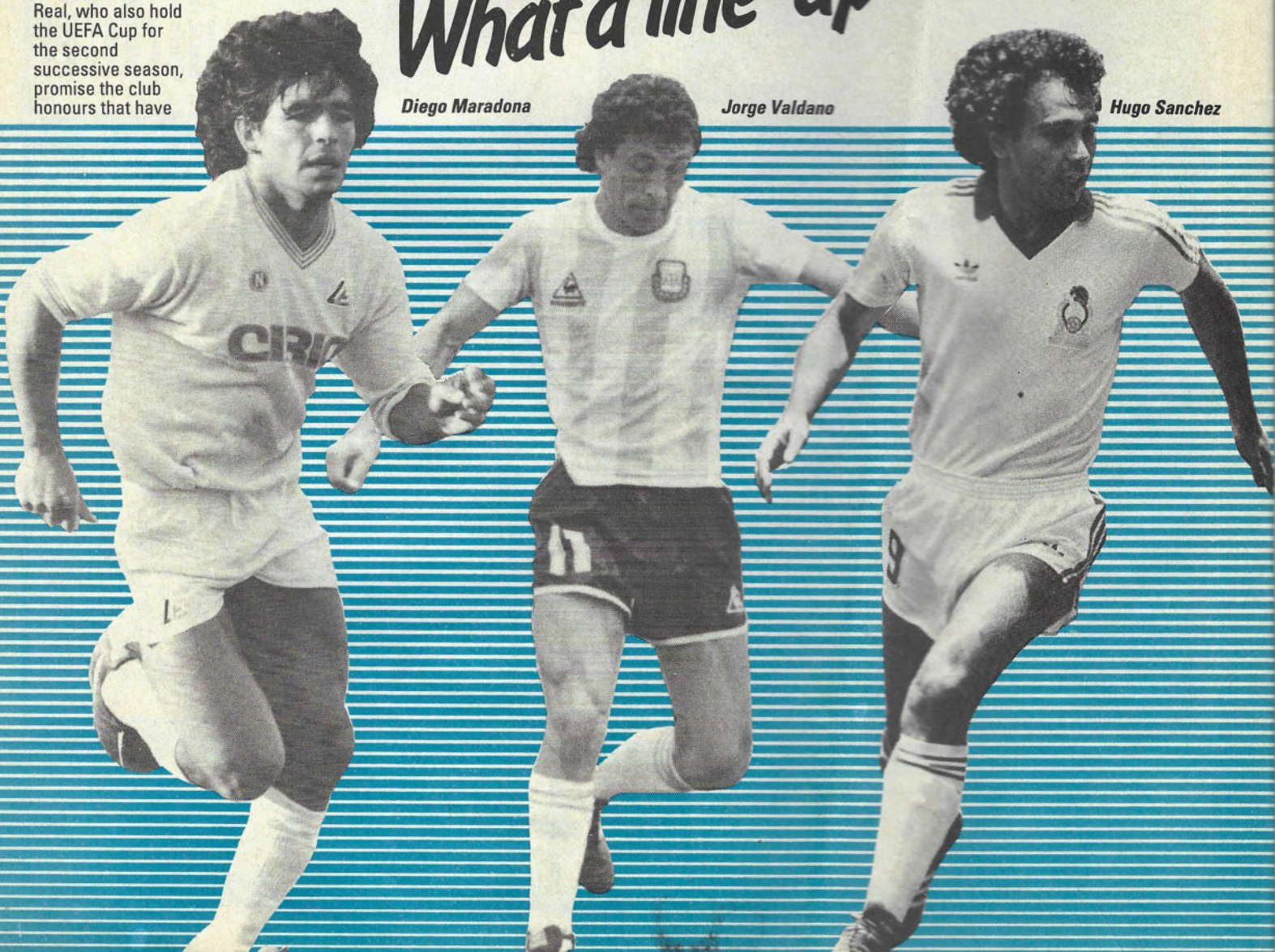
## £6m shock transfer bid

### What a line-up

Diego Maradona

Jorge Valdano

Hugo Sanchez





**C**ELTIC manager David Hay is ready to raid English football for two new players.

Hay has followed arch-rival Graeme Souness on scouting missions over the border to watch possible targets.

Top of his wanted list are Gary Williams, the Aston Villa defender, Joe McLaughlin, Chelsea's restless centre-half, and QPR and England centre-half Terry Fenwick, listed at £600,000.

Williams was watched in reserve action recently and Hay was impressed with the Englishman, a member of Villa's Cup winning team in 1982.

## Unsettled

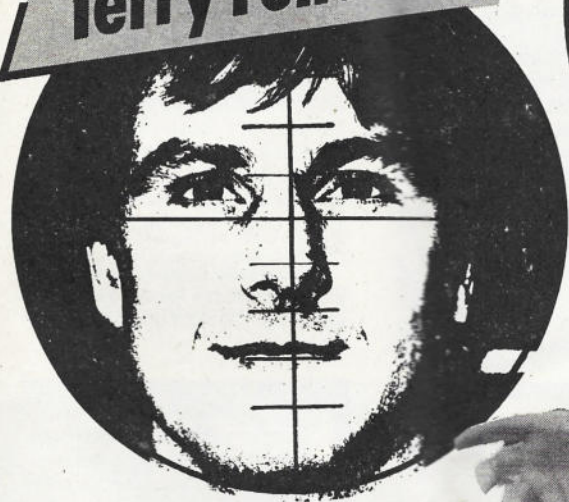
McLaughlin, Chelsea's unsettled central defender, has also been linked with Celtic and the former Morton defender would jump at the chance of going to Parkhead to play for the side he has always supported.

"I'm not happy at Stamford Bridge," says the transfer-seeking player. "Everyone should know that by now."

"I've asked for a transfer and the manager, John Hollins, knows exactly how I feel. If I have to, I'll ask for a transfer every single day until I get away."

Chelsea, however, have placed a £600,000 transfer tag on McLaughlin's head and although Hay, like Souness, has cash to spend he may balk at that figure.

## Terry Fenwick



# CELTIC HIT LIST

Williams is keen to play in the Premier Division. "I'm going nowhere fast at Villa. Reserve football is no use to me at this stage of my career," he says.

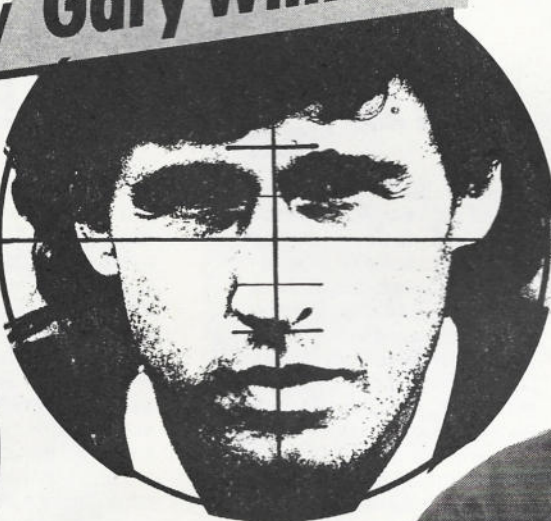
"I wouldn't mind going to Scotland. I've heard good things about the football up there and

obviously the Premier Division is an exceptionally tough League.

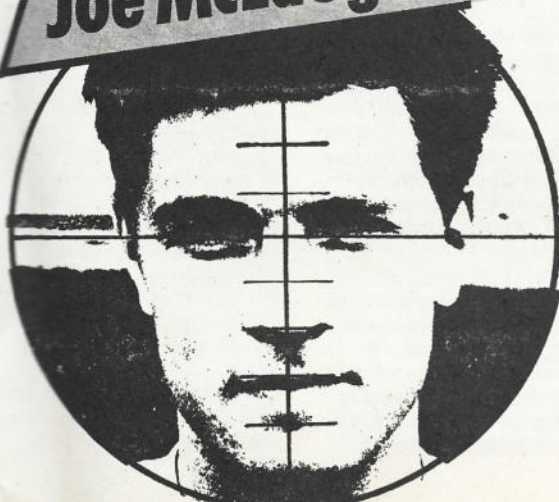
"A change like that could be just the boost my career needs. Certainly I wouldn't see it as a step backwards."

"Celtic and Rangers are two of

## Gary Williams



## Joe McLaughlin



the most famous clubs in the world and have tremendous supporters."

Celtic are also interested in St. Mirren defender Stevie Clarke. They are prepared to pay £250,000 for the Under-21 star, but St. Mirren manager Alex Miller wants £350,000.

Celtic could also rival Rangers in a bid for Queens Park Rangers' Terry Fenwick.

The Loftus Road defender fears that QPR's £600,000 asking price places him beyond the reach of all but the very richest First Division sides.

## Prospects

But Celtic and Rangers can both match that figure and Fenwick only has to look at Terry Butcher's situation to realise that a move to Scotland could actually improve his England international prospects.

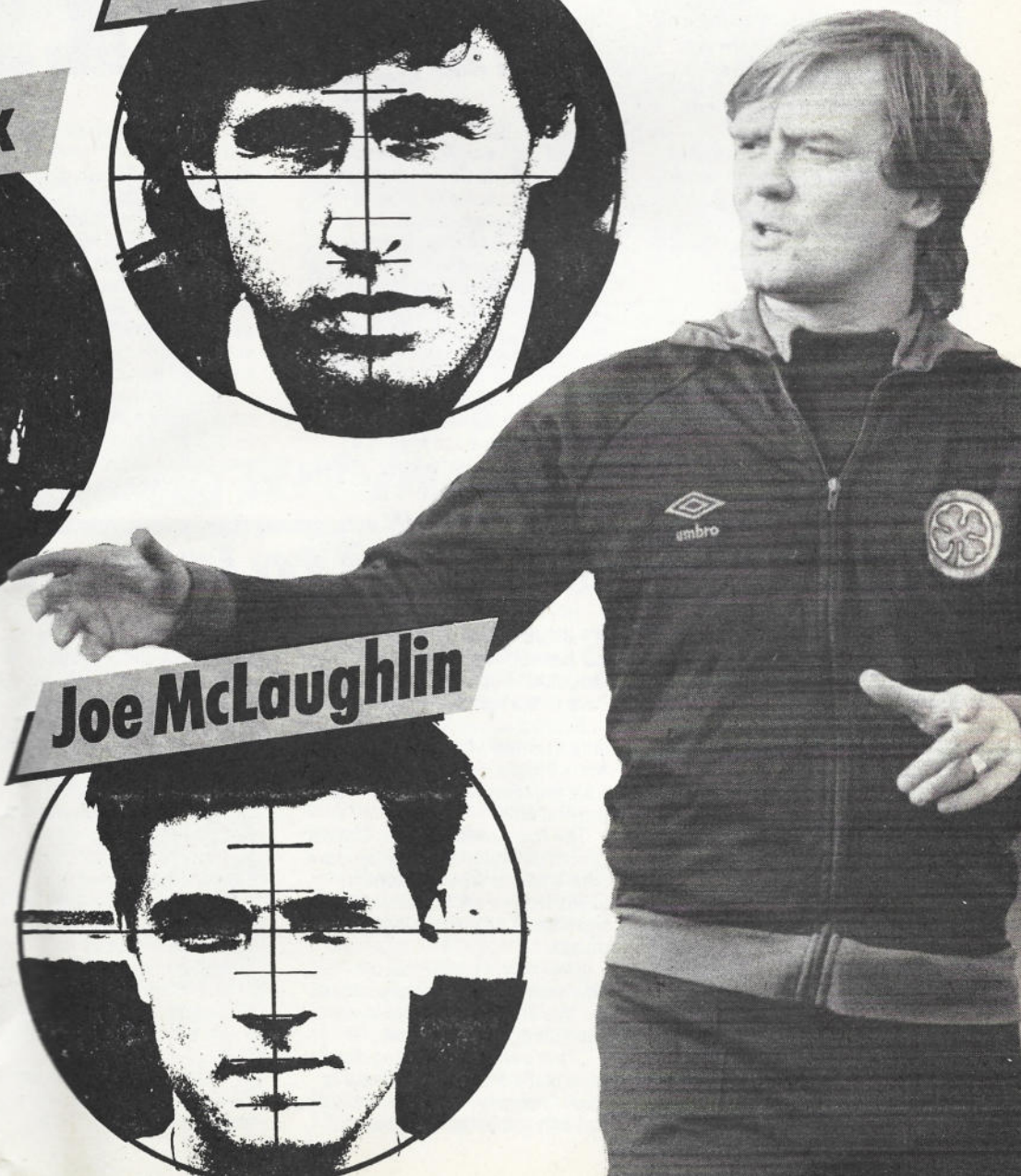
Celtic boss Hay is determined to put things right following that Skol Cup defeat by Rangers.

He will not hesitate to spend big if he feels he is getting value for money. Fenwick would fit the bill.

### LAUGH LINE



"Old accident prone has copped it again, Doc — scored a goal and someone gave him a pat on the back."





**S**UNDERLAND are recovering from the worst season in their history in a style which is likely to see them around the top of the Second Division in the coming months.

Lawrie McMenemy's side have slipped almost unnoticed into the promotion picture after an undistinguished start to the season.

And the solid, professional way they've done it is steadily silencing the McMenemy knockers who were out in force as his team dived with relegation in his first season in charge.

Those critics will always be waiting in the shadows — that's inevitable with a high-profile figure such as McMenemy, especially one earning £4,000 a week.

The performances of his team frequently warranted the criticism last season, but nobody can argue with their impressive form in recent weeks.

"Our target has always been to get into the top five — and stay there," says McMenemy, aware of the opportunity offered by the new play-off system.

### 'Proved'

"It is consistency that will be needed and I believe we have already proved that we have it this season.

"Our fans at Roker Park haven't seen many goals — it's always difficult at home because other teams give us much more respect. It's usually their big game of the season.

"But the supporters have seen the side taking shape. The players are responding and there is a blend and pattern about the team."

Strangely, McMenemy's current first-choice line-up appears



**THE  
MANAGER**

# Lawrie switches lights on

inferior on paper to some he fielded last year. Nick Pickering, Barry Venison, David Hodgson and Shaun Elliott have all gone to the First Division, while Eric Gates can't hold down a regular place.

Their replacements are men like Steve Doyle and Steve Hetzke, unfamiliar names, but well-versed in the demands of the Second Division. Dave Swindlehurst, Alan Kennedy, Frank Gray, Gary Bennett and George Burley look happier in a settled set-up, while new signings Dave Buchanan and 'keeper Iain Hesford have started well.

### THE CAPTAIN

## 'We need to improve'

**S**UNDERLAND skipper Gary Bennett illustrates the remarkable upheaval at Roker Park in the last two seasons.

Bennett joined Sunderland a little over two years ago, but only Mark Proctor remains at the club from the team he appeared in for the first time.

The former Manchester City and Cardiff defender appreciates more than anybody why McMenemy likens Roker Park to Euston Station because of all the comings and goings.

Even now, he believes, the new-look side is not firmly bedded in. "We are still getting to know each other," says Bennett.

"That's why it's pleasing that we have made a solid start. There is room for improvement — and we can only get better this season."

# A Special Report

## ROKER REVIVAL

"There's confidence right through the club," says McMenemy. "There is a good feel about the place."

The Roker managing director also doesn't hide his pleasure at the way things are going behind the scenes at the club.

"The place used to be in darkness when I left in the evening, now the lights are on and it's alive," he says.

The Roker Revival is responsible, a project which raises funds and also organises social events for supporters.

"Remember, my job is as

managing director," says McMenemy. "I run the whole organisation and I was brought here because I was successful at Southampton.

"I was brought here to get Sunderland running. If they had not been in a mess, nobody would have been needed here.

"But there are less areas to tidy up now, so I have more time to spend on the essential part — the team.

"We are all pulling together at this club and it's nice to see us getting to the right end of the table."



**Gary  
Bennett**

**S**underland's Second Division side are being shown the way by Roker Park's youngsters.

The reserves and the juniors have both been in the top two of their own leagues — a pleasing sight for McMenemy and his son, Chris, who looks after the club's kids.

"It shows there's confidence right through the club," says the former Southampton chief.

He has already shown his willingness to give young players a chance by persevering with Gordon Armstrong and Paul Lemon in midfield.

McMenemy said: "It looked like it might be catching up on them at one time this season, but I stuck with them.

"Now they are more confident and, with more games under their belt, they will eventually stop being young ones."

One of the reasons for Bennett's optimism is the dressing-room spirit, which was strained at times as the side struggled last season.

Now, he says: "We are all together. There are no arguments and I think that is reflected in the spirit on the pitch.

"We went 1-0 down against Reading recently and came back in a way which might not have happened last season."

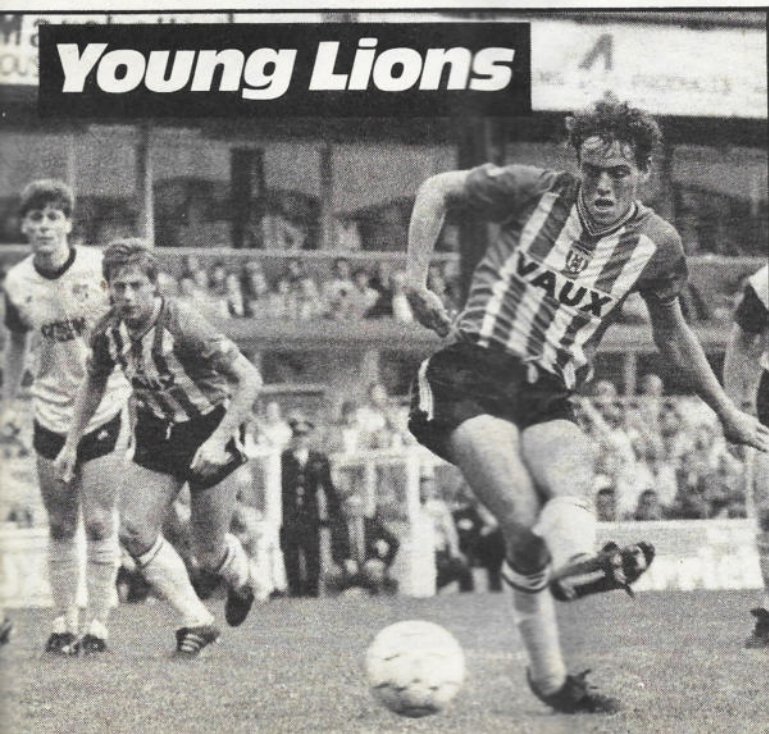
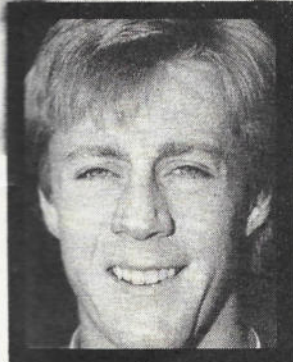
Bennett also believes the 1-1 draw against Reading reflected one of the problems for a club like Sunderland in the Second Division. "There were more than 17,000 fans in the ground and we could sense it was a big night for Reading," he says.

"Teams who come to Roker Park always give 110 per cent and we've got to match them."





Gordon Armstrong (below) is one of several youngsters who have been given a chance to establish a place in the Roker side. Dave Buchanan (right) has made a great start to his Sunderland career.



## Young Lions

## THE OLD CAMPAIGNER

### Kennedy changed to survive

Former England defender Alan Kennedy has learned some harsh lessons since his arrival at Sunderland from Liverpool.

But he has recovered the form that won him countless honours at Anfield after a nightmare start to his

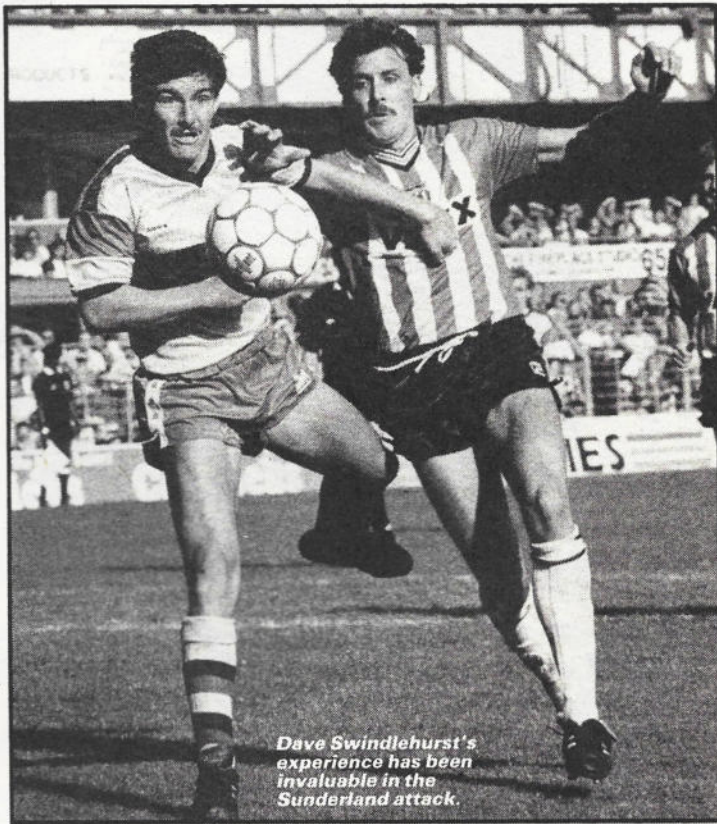
Roker career.

"I have had to make adjustments to my game to survive.

"After being with Newcastle and Liverpool, where I always seemed to have plenty of time to operate, the lack of space and speed of play in the Second Division caught me out.

"I realised that along with skill, you need to accept that commitment at this level is every bit as important as quality.

"But I know I can still do better and I won't stop working on my game until I have got it right. There is still a lot of hard work ahead if we are to get back to the First Division."



Dave Swindlehurst's experience has been invaluable in the Sunderland attack.

## THE YOUNG STAR

### Brilliant Buchanan

The Man from Uncle is combining with the homesick striker to spearhead Sunderland's move into the Second Division promotion race.

Dave Buchanan and Dave Swindlehurst are the unlikely pair who are delighting manager Lawrie McMenemy.

Buchanan is the 24-year-old who was recommended to Sunderland by his uncle Charles only days before the start of the season.

"He has been a real bonus," said McMenemy. "He's a natural striker, the sort who gets a blood transfusion every time he scores."

Buchanan's emergence won't surprise Leicester City fans who instantly warmed to him when he made his debut for them as a 16-year-old alongside another teenager, Gary Lineker.

But while Lineker moved on towards stardom with England and Barcelona, Buchanan broke a leg

and eventually quit the game after an unhappy spell at Peterborough and returned to the North East with Blyth Spartans.

Buchanan is a sharp, nimble, instinctive striker, the perfect foil to the steady experience of 29-year-old Swindlehurst who, according to McMenemy: "Deserves much of the credit for Buchanan's goals.

"He must be one of the best target men around now," insists McMenemy.

It's a remarkable contrast to last season. His family had stayed in London and he grew homesick for the South East at Christmas.

But the transfer he wanted didn't materialise and, with his family now with him on Wearside, Swindlehurst is happy.

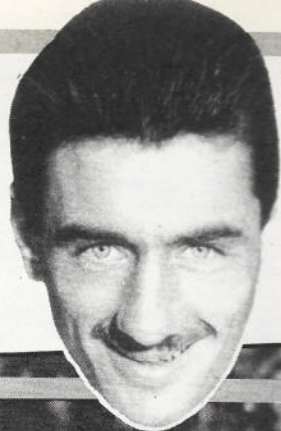
McMenemy said: "The fans helped him come through his bad patch and they're seeing him as I wanted them to see him from the start."



**T**here is a virus sweeping through the Liverpool dressing-room and only the players have the cure.

We're suffering from acute depression, brought on by an unusually poor run of results.

I've never known us to be so inconsistent, thumping opponents one week, getting stuffed the next. No player enjoys losing. But at Anfield, the experience is made



**IAN  
RUSH**

Mike Newell heads his hat-trick goal in our 4-1 thrashing at Luton.



all the worse by our years of great success.

But we are not alone.

Pre-season favourites like Manchester United and Chelsea are in deep trouble at the foot of the table; big names like Newcastle, Manchester City and Aston Villa are struggling beside them.

Arsenal have sold two international strikers, Paul Mariner and Tony Woodcock, bought a lad from Fourth Division Colchester and now look capable of challenging for the title.

Up there with them are Norwich, newly promoted, Nottingham Forest, all veterans and kids, and Coventry, more

**HAVE WE**

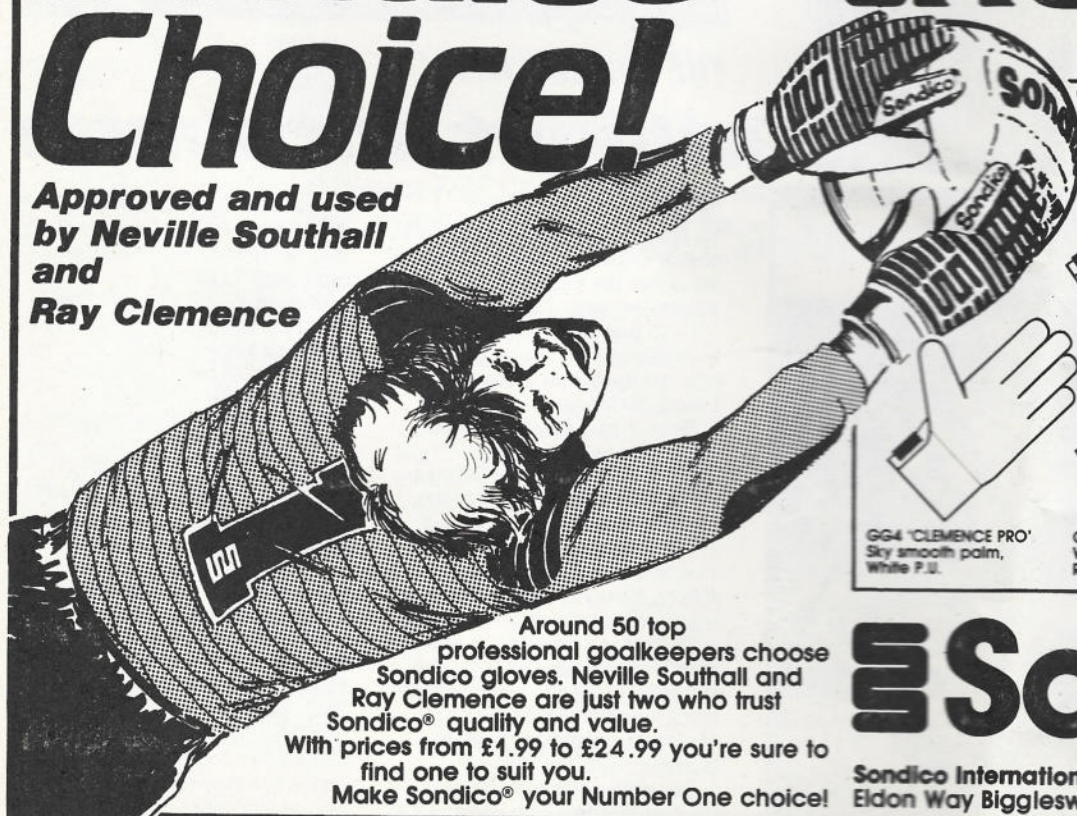
famous for their annual escape act down at the bottom.

It's amazing and it's marvellous! Such topsy-turvy action can only be good for the game, for the fans and the players.

We don't have Europe to aim for so a runaway leader at this stage would kill the season stone dead. The trouble for Liverpool is that we know the pressure is on in our defence of our title.

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## AT-A-GLANCE FORM GUIDE

Here we see how Liverpool stood on the last day of October 1985 and 1986.

1985-86	1986-87
P 14	P 12
W 8	W 6
D 4	D 2
L 2	L 4
F 31	F 25
A 16	A 16
Pos: 2	Pos: 5



# BLOWN IT?

The first team to string together a run of League wins will gallop to the top. At the moment the leaders can lose and find themselves no worse off.

On Sunday we take on Sheffield Wednesday, a team now capable of making a real bid for the title. They get a lot of stick for their style of play. But I reckon it's unfair. In Gary Shelton, Brian Marwood and Gary Megson they

have excellent ball-players and with the rest of the division in turmoil, don't back against them.

I believe the problems for us stem from our long run of domination. The others are probably sick of hearing the name 'Liverpool' and we've become the team to beat.

That's nothing new. What is new is that teams are succeeding! But not for long.

Rivals Everton have overcome most of their appalling injury problems and have returned to the title chase.

But can they string together a run of wins? Unbeaten runs are OK, but when you draw you chuck away two points. It's straight wins, about four or five in a row, that will make the difference.

The longer the season carries on like this, the more likely it is

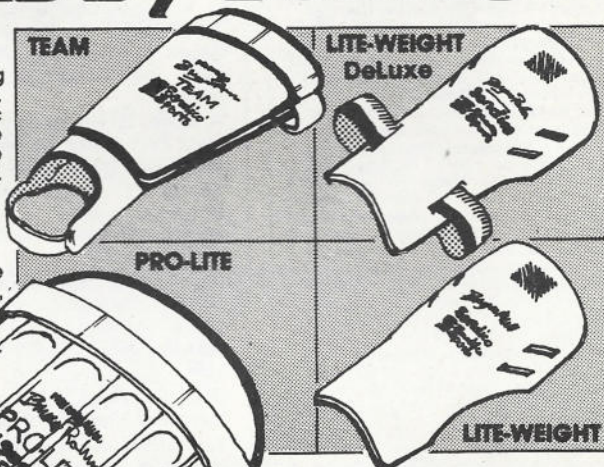
that we'll see a new name on the Championship trophy. Forest? Norwich? Arsenal? This time last year I would have blown out such a suggestion as wholly unlikely. But not any more.

*1 air used*



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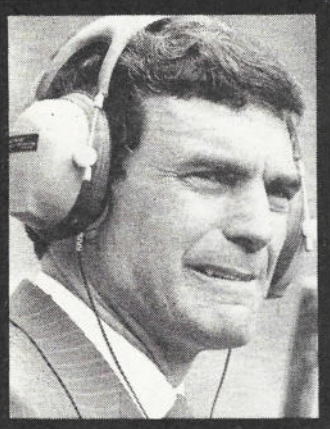
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# BEAT BROOKING



## Bogy boys

**I**N recent seasons **FOREST** have proved something of a bogey team to **LUTON**.

In Forest's last seven visits to Kenilworth Road, Luton have failed to beat them.

The skill of Nigel Clough, acceleration of Neil Webb and experience of Garry Birtles will cause problems to a Luton side who depend a great deal on Brian

*Trevor Brooking has predicted the results of First Division and Premier Division matches scheduled for Saturday 15th November. See if you can topple him ...*

FIRST DIVISION	Trev's Tip	Your Tip
Aston Villa v Chelsea	2-1	
Leicester v Everton	0-1	
Liverpool v Sheff. Wed. (to played Sunday, Nov. 16)	2-1	
Luton v Nottm. Forest	1-1	
Man. City v Charlton	1-0	
Newcastle v Watford	2-1	
Norwich v Man United	1-1	
QPR v Oxford	1-0	
Southampton v Arsenal	1-1	
Spurs v Coventry	2-0	
Wimbledon v West Ham	1-2	
<b>PREMIER DIVISION</b>		
Celtic v Dundee Utd.	2-1	
Clydebank v Rangers	0-2	
Dundee v Motherwell	2-1	
Hamilton v Falkirk	1-1	
Hearts v Aberdeen	1-0	
St. Mirren v Hibs	2-1	



The touch play of Forest's Nigel Clough will pose a threat to Luton.

Stein to get their goals.

They've certainly missed the power of injured Mick Harford, although Mike Newell scored a hat-trick in their 4-1 win over Liverpool.

CELTIC haven't beaten DUNDEE UNITED in a Premier Division game at Parkhead since April, 1983, when they won 2-0 with goals from Frank McGarvey and Charlie Nicholas.

With both sides neck and neck for the title, I take Celtic to crack that hoodoo this time out. It won't be easy, but Celtic are beginning to run in to form.

### ★ 1986/87 PROGRAMMES ★

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This week's Star Letter and £10 winner comes from Geraint Morgan of Pontardawe, Swansea in West Glamorgan. He writes:

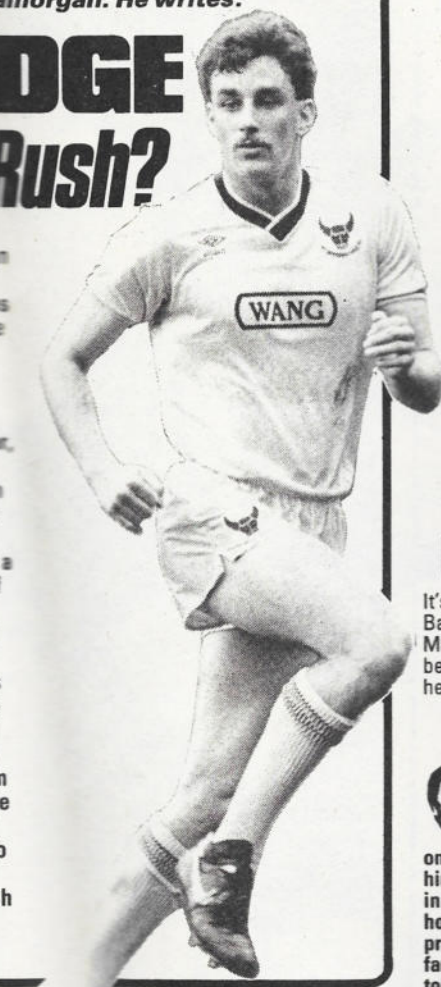
## ALDRIDGE -the new Rush?

John Aldridge is so much like Ian Rush in both appearance and style of play that he is an obvious replacement for Rushie when he goes to Juventus at the end of the season.



Aldridge is an excellent goalscorer, but I'll be very surprised to see him going to Anfield. He

is 28-years-old, and Kenny Dalglish is looking for someone a bit younger. I see there's talk of Preben Elkjaer going to Liverpool, but my money is still on David Speedie or Charlie Nicholas. Whoever Kenny does sign will not be able to replace Rushie. No player in the world can do the same job. Liverpool will have to forget all about him and look to play a different style involving more players getting forward. They may even have to play with three strikers and abandon the 4-4-2 system which has proved so successful for them over the years.



## Super Sivebaek

A few months ago you said that Johnny Sivebaek had been a bad buy for Manchester United. But now he's settled in at right-back, he looks to be an excellent player.

NIKKI WARMING,  
CHEADLE, CHESHIRE.



He's still got a lot to do to convince me he can succeed at Old Trafford. In the recent Manchester derby he was all over the place. City's Clive Wilson is far better. He is the best left-back I've seen since Ray Wilson.

## Fat Hornets

After seeing Watford in a recent match I was amazed to see how fat and overweight a lot of their players looked. Doesn't Graham Taylor have any rules on this?

PHILIP RYDER,  
HUYTON, MERSEYSIDE.



I've trained with Watford and can tell you that Graham Taylor really puts them through it. Maybe Elton John has been treating them to too many cream teas.



## Good on yer, Bruce

Bruce Riech is doing a brilliant job at Middlesbrough. Under his guidance, the club can go all the way back to the top.

MICHAEL SPEDDY,  
WALSALL, W. MIDLANDS.



The club were finished in the summer, but they've started from scratch and that's often the best thing that can happen. Riech's experience gained in his playing days under some of the best managers in the game can lead Middlesbrough to promotion.



## Hughes flop

It's hardly surprising that the Barcelona fans have turned against Mark Hughes. It was obvious even before he left Manchester United that he had lost his goal touch.

GARETH CROSSLEY,  
WARLEY, HALIFAX.



Hughes had a very bad season for United last term, and people put that down to the fact that he knew he was on his way. But I've never considered him to be a great player, certainly not in the Rush or Lineker category. I just hope that things turn in Mark's favour pretty quickly, because those foreign fans are very fickle. British fans will tolerate certain players who haven't done the business for years, but they don't get much of a chance in Spain or Italy.

## Don't go, Bobby

While I'm delighted that Neville Southall is back, I hope that Bobby Mimms can be persuaded to stay at Everton. He has proved he is an excellent goalkeeper.

WENDY MOORE,  
MALPAS, GWENT.

## WALLY OF THE WEEK

Wally of the Week has to be the policemen who threw Portsmouth's Mick Quinn and Paul Wood out of Fratton Park for swearing. I can think of no better way to start a crowd riot.

DAVID GRAHAM,  
HAVANT, HANTS.



I agree 100 per cent. I was dumbfounded by the action of those crazy coppers. They must be a right couple of wallies. If that's all the Old Bill can do at a football match attended by more than 11,000 people, they might as well not be there.



Mimms has been a tremendous stand-in, but Southall is the best goalkeeper in Britain and you can't blame Howard Kendall for wanting him back in his Everton team as soon as possible. Mimms (below) has put himself in the shop window and if he decides he does want to leave he won't have much difficulty finding a new club.





# NEXT WEEK

## PAUL WALSH

*I'll sideline the boss*

## Gary Lineker

*Overseas service can be cruel*



## Clive Allen

*I am good enough for England*

## Merseyside mania

*Peter Reid stirs it up*

## EVERTON and BRIGHTON groups

## Goal-King Aldridge

*Amazing pictures on his day off!*



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## Duncan tribute

**D**UNCAN EDWARDS, one of the "Busby Babes" killed in the 1958 Munich air disaster, has been further honoured by his home town of Dudley.

Bobby Charlton unveiled a display cabinet containing Edwards' international shirts at the town's Leisure Centre.

Speaking about his old colleague, Charlton said: "Duncan was the greatest player ever to play for Manchester United — the

most gifted all-round footballer you would wish to see.

"Looking around at all these trophies and shirts confirms just how good a player he was and it was a great tragedy when he died in the crash.

"His biggest asset was that he knew he was a great player. This was his strength as he loved everything associated with soccer and was an outstanding example to all young players."

### QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Leicester. 2. (a) Kenny Sansom, (b) Glenn Roeder, (c) Ian Bowyer. 3. Header. 4. Newport. 5. Dynamo Kiev, 1-1. 6. Terry Gibson for Coventry. 7. Cardiff. 8. Luis Fernandez. 9. (a) Nottingham Forest, (b) Manchester City, (c) Aston Villa, (d) Leicester, (e) Dundee United. 10. True. 11. (a) Manchester United, (b) Chelsea, (c) Arsenal. 12. Robson. 13. Alex. 14. Mark Wright. 15. Belgium. 16. Hearts and Dundee United. 17. (a) Ipswich, (b) Southampton, (c) Norwich, (d) Dynamo Kiev, (e) Real Madrid. 18. Colchester. 19. (a) George Curtis, (b) Lawrie McMenemy, (c) Bobby Ferguson. 20. True.



# IMRE STORMS BACK

**I**t took Imre Varadi only six minutes of his Manchester City debut to decide he had made the right move.

That's how long the 27-year-old striker had to wait to open his goalscoring account for the Maine Road club, his first goal in the First Division for seven months.

During that time Varadi, whose career goal average stands at roughly one in every two games, had been exiled with the reserves and youth team at West Bromwich Albion after falling foul of manager Ron Saunders.

"I had almost forgotten what it felt like to play in a League match, let alone score a goal," he said. "I know it is going to take me time to recover my full sharpness, but to find the target so quickly in my debut at Chelsea was a smashing reminder that I hadn't lost the knack."

## Alarming

Manchester City boss Jimmy Frizzell moved in for the much travelled Varadi in an effort to sort out his team's alarming lack of goals.

And the former Sheffield United, Everton, Newcastle and Sheffield Wednesday striker admits: "I can't understand why they should have had so many problems finding the back of the net.

"It's obviously too early to tell, but from my first look at the side they seem to be ideally equipped to go forward. Just look at the way we played against Manchester United in the derby game.

"I was very impressed by the work of Neil McNab in midfield,

and winger Paul Simpson has got so much pace it's frightening. City strike me as having the sort of side who are going to make chances, and no forward can ask for more than that."

Varadi had endured a nightmare time at Albion after the arrival in February of Ron Saunders. He was dropped and transfer listed for refusing to move his home nearer The Hawthorns.

"I was never scared of moving," insists Varadi. "That was just an excuse. I've been on my backside doing nothing ever since Saunders walked in the door. It's just a relief to get away. I want to

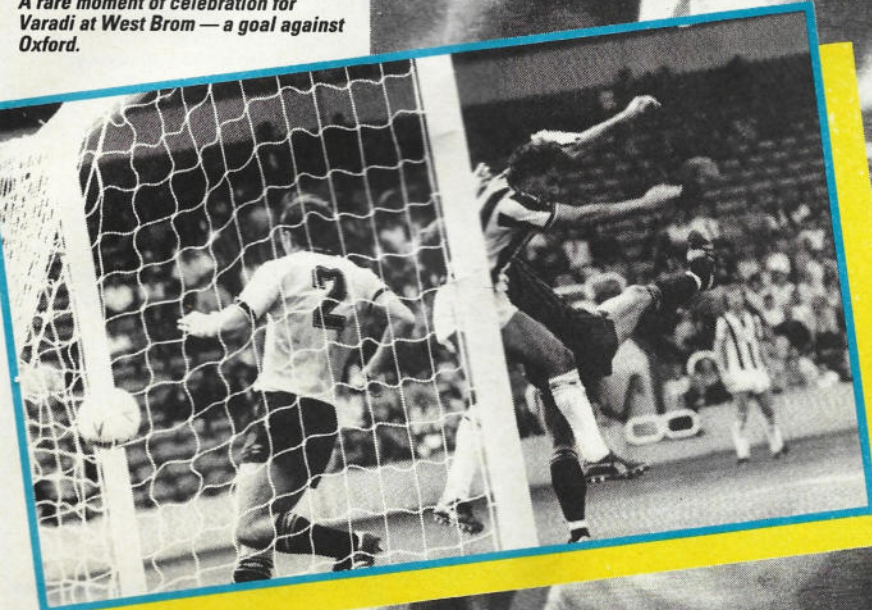
put my career back on the rails again."

It was that hunger for goals that persuaded Frizzell to sign Varadi — at the same time parting with Trevor Christie to Walsall and swapping Robert Hopkins back to The Hawthorns.

"Imre has had his problems and now he's hungry to show what he can do. That's exactly what I need because the one thing we have been failing to do is score goals," says the Maine Road boss.



A rare moment of celebration for Varadi at West Brom — a goal against Oxford.





**Focus  
on**

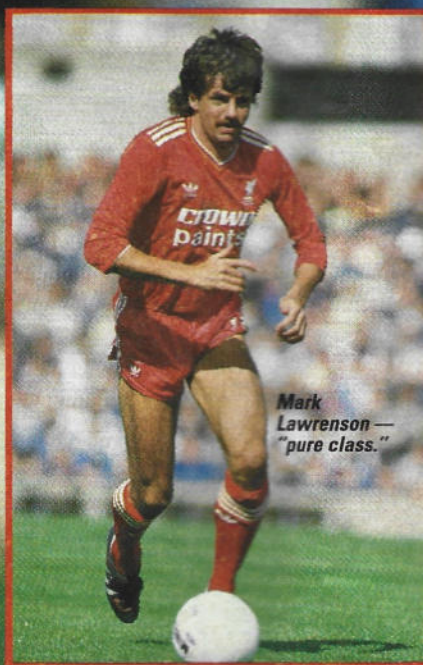
# NOEL BLAKE

**PORTSMOUTH**

Full name: Noel Lloyd-George Blake.  
Birthplace and date: Kingston, Jamaica, on  
January 12, 1962.  
Height and weight: 6ft. 2ins. 13st. 5lbs.  
Married: Yes, to Liane. We have two young  
daughters, Carla and Donna.  
Home: A four bedroom detached house in  
Lovedean, Hampshire.

Car: Toyota Celica.  
Previous clubs: Aston Villa,  
Shrewsbury (on loan) and  
Birmingham City.  
Nickname: Blakey or Mac. Ask  
Kevin O'Callaghan why I'm  
known as Mac!  
Team you supported as a boy:  
Birmingham City.  
Football hero of childhood:  
Trevor Francis.  
Favourite current player:  
Liverpool's Mark Lawrenson —  
pure class.

Most memorable match:  
Beating Aston Villa 3-0 as a  
Birmingham player. I scored  
the first goal.  
Biggest disappointment: Being  
relegated with Birmingham  
and twice missing promotion  
with Portsmouth.  
Superstitions: I come out of the  
tunnel last.  
International honours: None  
yet.  
Club honours: I won the F.A.  
Youth Cup with Villa.  
Favourite other sports:  
Basketball, cricket and  
athletics.  
Favourite other sports stars:  
Seb Coe and Viv Richards.  
Hobbies: Reading sports  
autobiographies.  
Favourite actor and actress:  
Charles Bronson and  
Jacqueline Bisset.  
Favourite TV shows: Soap  
operas.  
Favourite musicians: Bob  
Marley and Luther Vandross.  
Biggest influence on career:  
Bill Shorthouse, Ron Saunders  
and Alan Ball. All have helped  
me to mature as a player and  
as a person.  
Ambitions for 1986-87: To win  
promotion to the First Division.  
Long-term ambitions: To be  
healthy and happy.



Mark  
Lawrenson —  
"pure class."

*Noel Blake*